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The Nation

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1912.

The Week

The tariff programme outlined by Mr. Underwood, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, is in line with the policy that he has stood for from the beginning. He proposes to put through the House a series of measures of substantial tariff reduction, in pursuance of the clear conviction that the exactions of the protective system as it now stands are manifestly beyond reason and that the country is entitled to relief without further prolonged delay. It will then be for the Senate to decide whether these measures shall go to the President for approval or not; and, if they do, Mr. Taft will be placed in the position of determining, upon the eve of a Presidential election, whether he will plant himself in opposition to Congress on that issue or let the bills become law. From the standpoint of party policy, this is a clear-cut and effective programme; for if the President opposes, the Democrats will have precisely the issue they want in the campaign, and if he approves, they will enjoy the credit of having actually enacted remedial legislation. Nor is the case less strong from the standpoint of national policy; for the measures contemplated are not of a revolutionary character, but are to be framed in such a way as to reduce the tariff burden without violent shock to interests of national importance.

To the objection against framing bills of this kind without waiting for the reports of the Tariff Board on the various schedules involved, the Board's report on wool, admirable though it is as a piece of investigation, furnishes a most effective answer. Those who may have entertained the naïve expectation that such an investigation would supply a simple and straightforward answer to the question of what the tariff rates on wool and woollens ought to be, must see by this time that nothing of the kind has happened, or can happen. The information that the report supplies is both more abundant and more trustworthy than what was available before, but it leaves the question as wide open as ever. Even if we were to accept as a finality the difference-of-cost principle—which, when it comes to extreme cases, nobody really does accept—it would still be impossible to say what tariff rates ought to be imposed as a consequence of the Board's report. As regards some of the most vital particulars, the Board expressly states that it is impossible authoritatively to determine that difference; and furthermore the difference may be any one of a dozen different things according as comparison is made with this country or that, and according to what section, or what enterprise, in our own country is taken as a basis.

Protests to President Taft against his proposed appointment of Judge Hook to the Supreme Court are based on a single case. In it Judge Hook decided that a certain railway rate of fare was confiscatory, and that therefore the State had no constitutional power to impose it. But this was purely a question of fact. Granting the facts to be as alleged by the court, there was nothing else for the judge to do but declare what the law is as applied to them. The objectors should address themselves to the task of showing that the facts were not correctly presented in the court, rather than to efforts to prove that Judge Hook laid down the law wrongly. Most of his decisions in railway and Trust cases are admitted to have upheld the power of the Government duly to regulate and restrain. Indeed, more doubts about his selection for the Supreme Court have been expressed by corporation lawyers than by radically-minded persons. It would be a fair inference, accordingly, from the objections to Judge Hook telegraphed from Oklahoma and Minnesota, that he is one who holds the scales of justice even. In general, the reception of the news of his probable appointment to our highest court, and the testimonials to his ability and character, are such as to show that he is fitted for the honorable promotion.

"How happy could I be with either," is the sentiment that evidently pervaded the proceedings of the Ohio Progressive League at Columbus on Monday, but, in the case of at least one of the eminent speakers, the discomfort produced by the tantalizing peculiarities of "t'other dear charmer" found plaintive expression. "Col. Roosevelt should declare himself," said Senator Works of California, "both as to his candidacy and as to his stand on the principles that are accepted as progressive. If this movement attempts to centre itself around its principles and not around a candidate it will lessen its chances of success." Coming from a man who, at the same time, declared that, if Roosevelt should declare himself, he would not hesitate to support him, and that Mr. La Follette would do likewise, this criticism of the Colonel has special interest. It must, indeed, be peculiarly trying to have the man who was so long thought of as a volcano in a state of constant eruption adopt the rôle of the Sphinx at the very time that his ardent admirers are most anxious to know where he stands—and where they stand.

"Gov. Harmon is either a standpatter or a progressive. He cannot be both," says Mr. Bryan. Yet that is just what the overwhelming majority of American citizens actually are. Whole-hog standpatters are about as scarce as whole-hog progressives. Most of us are standpatters on some things, and progressives on others. This is true even of distinguished progressive leaders. Gov. Wilson, for example, is a standpatter on the tenure of judges, a progressive on workmen's compensation and kindred subjects, and a mitigated progressive on the initiative and referendum. Mr. Bryan himself, who was once a mighty progressive on government ownership of railways, looks now wonderfully like a standpatter on that subject, seeing that even "ultimate" ownership has apparently ceased to interest him. Gov. Harmon has enunciated, from time to time, "progressive" views on certain questions, but he doubtless had no notion that by doing so he was cutting himself off from the privilege of holding association of any kind with anybody who was not a progressive of the deepest dye.

Nothing gives Senator Lorimer and his friends greater pain than to see some one else appear to violate the spirit of the Illinois primary law. His feel-

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ings can be imagined, therefore, at the action of the Cook County Republican Committee in adopting, by a vote of 31 to 9, a resolution for a convention to recommend candidates for the spring primary. But apart from this feature, the vote, we should think, must be most satisfying to him. It clearly demonstrates the necessity for the Lorimer-Lincoln League, with its firm adherence to the "only true and historic Republican principles," and its determination to put into office men whom it can trust. Before the meeting of the County Committee, the League had issued a call for a convention of all that mighty army of Illinois Republicans who believe in the fundamental principles of Republicanism as advocated by Abraham Lincoln and as practiced by William Lorimer. Why, then, should the Senator want his candidates' names to appear on the regular ticket when they can as easily be put on the ticket of the League?

The present manœuvring and plotting over the Sherwood Pension bill gives point to the series of articles on pension abuses which Mr. Charles Francis Adams is contributing to the *World's Work*. Himself a Union veteran, Mr. Adams is able to speak with a freedom greater than that accorded to the ordinary writer. That even he will be abused for using such plainness of speech is certain. The pension machine has its vigilant press agents as well as lobbyists, and lets no guilty man escape —the guilty man being, of course, any one who writes or votes against granting the most extreme demands made in the name of the old soldiers. But some one must make a stand, and sooner or later these pension raids upon the Treasury must be beaten off.

One point Mr. Adams drives home with great force is the hugger-mugger condition of our pension legislation as a whole. There is no fixity or certainty in the law. It is in a constant state of flux, and even if something like a general standard could be set up, it would be instantly undermined by the flood of private pension bills which are continually enacted. These special bills have now come to be regarded as an established perquisite of Congressmen; each member is entitled to a given number, irrespective of the merits of the case. The process has grown from small beginnings to portentous results. In the first Congress after the Civil War, only 138 private-pension bills were passed, but now they number thousands annually. In all, Mr. Adams states, more than 32,000 original pensions or increases of pensions have been voted by Congress to persons who could not qualify for them under the general laws. This system is obviously the destruction of all system. So gross have been the evils of "correcting the military record"—often equivalent to condoning desertion—of would-be pensioners, and of the other methods of the private pension bills, that one Senator is prepared to urge an amendment to the Sherwood bill absolutely forbidding the granting hereafter of any special pensions. The howls that this would provoke may easily be imagined.

Tammany gets a peculiarly damaging blow in the defeat of the eleventh-hour attempt to railroad through its pet building code. It was a manœuvre that was suspicious and unblushing from the start, the effort to rush the patched-up code to enactment being made in defiance of propriety and also of the legal requirements, but it was not the nature of the grab that hurts Tammany but the failure to execute it. The Wigwam has no scruples about decency in such matters, but its boast and its strength have been that when it set out to "put it over" it always succeeded. It was this belief in Tammany's invincibility which nerved the long fight for Sheehan as United States Senator last winter, and his final defeat did great injury to Tammany prestige. It may well be argued, however, that its failure with the building code, right here in its own bailiwick and in its own Board of Aldermen, is even more crushing. Incidentally, the break-down of the discreditable attempt to force a code through must be a relief to Mayor Gaynor, as otherwise he would have been compelled to veto it.

Philadelphia has received from its reform City Solicitor a substantial Christmas present in the shape of an involuntary surrender of valuable contracts by the McNichol and Vare concerns that have so long been doing work for the city. The event is hailed as the most decisive victory for honest administration in the city's history. The legality of these contracts was questioned before the Blankenburg Administration came in, but that did not prevent Councils from voting the money to pay for them. The first official act of the new Solicitor, however, was to serve notice on the Controller not to countersign warrants for these payments. This led to a request for an interview from Senator McNichol, which was denied, but he was generously told how he might save something by giving up a good deal, and he assented to the terms. Not only are the contracts to be readvertised, but McNichol is to furnish a bond of $1,000,000 to cover any imperfection that may be found in the work already done. Vare hesitated at first, but soon followed the example of his fellow-boss. The total sum involved in the abandoned contracts is about $750,000.

It is not for us to express an opinion when the Editor and the Contributing Editor of the *Outlook* differ. We can only note with becoming awe the fact that their views do diverge. Each writes in last week's number of the Russian treaty. The Editor knows that Mr. Taft served notice of its abrogation. The Contributing Editor has evidently never heard of the President's having had any part in the business, and thought Congress did it all. He does not mention Mr. Taft by name. The Editor writes that "the country should be grateful to the President for saving it from putting a perfectly needless affront upon a friendly Power." The Contributing Editor avoids personalities, but comes down heavily upon abstractions like "contemptible hypocrisy"; and yet the following passage will doubtless be supposed in some quarters—possibly in the White House—to have a personal application:

> It is neither sincere nor patriotic to make believe to support the principle of arbitration in general, and to try to get the country to commit itself to this principle, and at the same time to take part in, or to connive at, the repudiation by this country of the principle so loudly advocated, the very first moment that it is possible to reduce that principle to practice. In other words, it will put this country into a position both ridiculous and discreditable to pass the proposed general arbitration treaties at the same time that we denounce our general treaty with Russia.

What the probative force may be, for the immediate trial of the beef-packers, of all the evidence given in Chicago about proposed giant mergers which were not effected, we do not undertake

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to say. Its financial and moral effect, however, is patent. By it we get a vivid glimpse into the state of mind that was prevalent in those lavish days of 1901 and 1902 when every industry was eagerly combining, and when huge overcapitalization and enormous profits for promoters were making the methods and hopes of Col. Sellers appear reasonable. That period is past, and it is safe to say that in exactly the same form it will never recur in the country. At least some positive achievements can be pointed to as the result of all the agitation and law-making and prosecutions of the last ten years, and one of them is the present impossibility of such plans for making hundreds of millions out of hand as were entertained by the packers in 1902.

Boston and Chicago may ban the skyscraper, but Milwaukee remains a firm friend. Its City Planning Commission does admit that, carried to an extreme point, the high building brings about conditions detrimental to the public welfare, but that point, it holds, has not yet been reached in Milwaukee. The few skyscrapers with which that city is favored make for good rather than evil, and citizens would do much better to be solving some of the other urgent problems confronting them. One is beginning to admire Milwaukee's good sense as evidenced by this report, when the eye lights upon this sentence: "The present law, which in one instance an attempt has been made to enforce, would limit the height of buildings to one and one-half times the width of the street upon which they are to be built." It thus appears that when a skyscraper and the law come into collision in Milwaukee, it is not the skyscraper that goes down. Some innocent or meddling official may make an attempt to enforce the law, but all the recognition it gets from the City Planning Commission is that it "would limit the height of buildings"—if it could. Laws, no more than kings, can stand in the way of a free people.

Pessimism as a philosophy of life must always shatter itself against the elemental fact that the vast majority of men do find it easier to say "yes" than "no," and easier to say "you are right" than "you are wrong." That this is the fact we have the great American institution of the post-card poll to prove. No magazine or newspaper finds the least difficulty in procuring from its readers an overwhelming vote for the man or the principle that the publication in question has closest at heart. The strictest impartiality is observed, of course; the voters are carefully distributed by States and parties and religious denomination and nativity and what not. The questions are framed by highly judicial questioners; the replies are classified by highly-trained classifiers; the spirit of impartial anonymity broods over the whole process. And yet, by some invincible telepathy between editor and subscribers, the subscribers never fail to endorse the man or the principle that the editor, with fine foresight, had long ago hit upon as the one Moses to lead us out of Egypt and the one secret to save this country.

The results of an elaborate experiment in anti-typhoid inoculation, as described by Dr. Vincent, an eminent French epidemologist, are truly remarkable. His work was carried on among the regiments stationed on the Algero-Moroccan frontier. Two hundred and eighty-three men were inoculated either with the Wright serum or one invented by M. Vincent. The first result obtained was to disprove the accepted belief that inoculation for typhoid is followed by a negative phase in which the subjects are more than ordinarily susceptible to infection. Not one case of the kind occurred, and, on the other hand, three cases in an early state of infection at the moment of inoculation developed into only a very mild form of typhoid. The experiment was carried out under the most trying conditions—in a notoriously unhealthful region, among a population ignorant of the rules of cleanliness, with whom the pollution of the water is a usual practice. There developed among 2,632 soldiers of European origin, who were not inoculated, during a period of three months, 171 cases of typhoid fever and 134 cases of febrile intestinal disturbances, a rate of 115 per thousand, with eight deaths. Among 129 men treated with the Wright serum there was a single light case, giving a ratio of 8 per thousand; among 154 men treated with the Vincent serum there were no cases.

At least one peace movement is progressing without a hitch. We refer to the project for celebrating in 1914 the completion of one hundred years of peace between the United States and Great Britain. Plans are forming to make this commemoration notable on both sides of the Atlantic and in the British colonies, not only as marking past good will and peaceful relations on the part of English-speaking peoples, but as a pledge of the future. A preliminary meeting for the appointment of a British Executive Committee in furtherance of the project was held in London not long ago, and the heartiest expressions of approval and adhesion came from all sides. The list of eminent men who are actively interesting themselves in the proposed celebration includes the names of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Balfour and Bonar Law, Lloyd George, Lord Curzon, Field-Marshal Roberts, and a host of distinguished representatives of law, letters, and the Church.

The Czar's Empire seems to be racked with vehement demonstrations of resentment at the abrogation of the treaty of 1832. This is rather odd after the reports sent over from Russia at the time of the debates in Congress, to the effect that the country as a whole was either ignorant of what was going on at Washington or else did not care. The dreadful things we are now threatened with by the ultra-patriotic element in the Duma may be heavily discounted. Such a proposal as the bill absolutely prohibiting the entry of American Jews into Russia, which the Nationalists are said to have introduced, is on the face of it absurd. It would be worse than insulting treatment which the Russian Government protested against in the Sulzer resolution, and our Government, too, has its sensibilities which a foreign Power is bound to take into account. And under the present régime in Russia, the Duma's action is really the Government's action. The majority in the Duma takes its cue from the Imperial Palace, and Nationalist demonstrations have their value only to the extent that the Czar and his Ministers can be conceived as backing them up. Now, many reasons exist why the Czar's Government is not prepared to enter into open antagonism with this country. Patience and diplomatic courtesy on our part, blended with firmness, will yet find a way out of the difficulty.

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PLACATORY RADICALS.

Senator La Follette's speeches in Ohio are illustrating a tendency often displayed by radical public men when they seek support for high office. They then minimize their radicalism. Or they will describe it as the only true conservatism. Sometimes they will represent themselves as possibly a little extreme, but will assert that going as far as they do is the only way to head off Socialism or anarchy. In general, however, they take a deprecating or placatory attitude. This kind of gentle roaring has often been heard from Senator La Follette and his friends in recent weeks. In Ohio he points to the tranquil state of affairs in Wisconsin, with capital secure, railways contented, banks safe, and the people enjoying prosperity—all as a result of legislation which has been denounced as radical!

A somewhat similar tone was adopted by Gov. West of Oregon during his recent tour in the Eastern States. His errand was partly to arouse interest in his own commonwealth, and to attract to it investors, so that it was natural to find him, in his public addresses, using conciliatory language. He did not want Easterners to get the idea that Oregon is loaded down with freakish legislation and afflicted with endlessly experimenting radicals. Gov. West admitted that they had in his State made a number of political innovations, but contended that they did not in the least affect public stability or financial soundness. Nowhere was property more secure or a fairer field offered for enterprise. Oregon is growing rapidly, her natural resources are being successfully developed, and there is no reason, her Governor asserted, why an unfounded dread of "the Oregon plan" in the matter of elections and in the use of the initiative and referendum should any longer do harm to the State.

There is no occasion, in the case of either Wisconsin or Oregon, to dispute the facts as alleged. We think it is generally conceded that the political movement which La Follette headed in Wisconsin did a great deal of good, even if it did not wholly and directly bring about all the blessings which are now held up to our admiration. If the whole question were to be debated, we should have to ask whether other and larger causes had not been operative. But our present intention is not so ambitious. We are merely noting a trait in political human nature—the almost invariable disposition of a political radical, when hard put to it for votes or followers, to picture himself as really one of the most steady-going persons alive, and one who, if you will only look at him in the true light, will appear to you as a very bulwark of the social order.

This may seem only amusing, by contrast with the truculent air which the radically-minded statesman assumes on other occasions, but it is in reality a sort of spontaneous tribute to the good sense of the American people. That they are at heart conservative, your radical who is at the same time a skilled politician easily discovers. He may think it wise vehemently to harangue and rouse them at times, but he knows that they do not really favor root-and-branch methods, that they do not long pin their faith to a man who is forever unsettling things, and hence he now and then adopts the rôle, as we see Senator La Follette doing, of one who loves to go slow and go safe and is as far as possible from being an incendiary. Even Mr. Bryan has occasionally sung low in this way, though in his campaigns his oratorical impulse always ran away with him in the end, and, no matter how mildly he might begin, he wound up in a fierce vein.

These diverse and apparently contradictory manifestations of the radical temperament must enter into the final judgment of any man in public life who is thought of as "advanced" or "dangerous." It is a nice question which view of him the people will take. In his placatory and reassuring moods, can he make them forget his firebrand moments? On the other hand, will those who really desire a constant and driving radicalism in our public life, be led to fear that the man they had for a time accepted is insincere and cannot be depended upon, because he stops occasionally to agree with the conservatives and to invite their coöperation? Our recent political history has given us many an example of this twofold peril for the political radical. He will make a first deep impression which, with a multitude of people, nothing which he may afterwards do or say can remove. One did not need the demonstration in the repeated attempts made by Mr. Bryan to gain the confidence of the country, to be sure that he could not overcome the idea of his character early formed. People were on all sides heard to say: "It's of no use for him to talk. You cannot persuade me that the man is not flighty and would not upset everything if he had a chance." This may be unjust, but it shows how difficult it is for a statesman to placate after he has long inflamed and alarmed. And at present, we are bound to add, there seems no likelihood that Senator La Follette will succeed in making the country believe that the garb of a conservative fits him comfortably. No speeches which he can make in Ohio will cause people to forget his speeches in the Senate. His praise of business methods in Wisconsin cannot divert attention from the wild and whirling words he has uttered about the men of his imagination who wickedly bring on needless financial panics.

A YEAR'S RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

From the Railway Business Association comes a bulletin setting forth the history of the legislative year, 1911, from the railway point of view. It is intended to be a "fair and uncolored narrative," and is laid before the public in order that people need not depend upon "chance impressions of the daily news" for their knowledge of the trend of legislation in the several States. If the tone of much of the comment is frankly that of men having a heavy stake in the business, and therefore not unbiassed, the actual record seems nevertheless accurate. Primarily, the Association notes gladly that whereas there were 664 laws affecting railways passed in 1909 by 41 Legislatures, in 1911, with 40 Legislatures sitting, there were but 276, a decrease of no less than 58 per cent. Moreover, there is rejoicing that in these Legislatures a marked tendency towards a "constructive policy affecting railways" was to be noted. But what pleases most is that the States which have been pioneers in regulating the roads "seem to have nearly or quite given up the quest for further restrictions, and are now evincing anxiety to attract capital for the development of transportation and business." Finally, the Association feels that politicians who advocate a "far-sighted policy" towards railways are receiving the support of the several electorates.

Before accepting these statements as indicating that there has been a cessa-

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tion of what some railway men are only able to describe as a "war upon capital," it is well to analyze them. What, for instance, is the definition of "far-sighted policy"? Senator La Follette's definition would hardly coincide with that of the Railway Business Association, yet he, too, is certain that a far-sighted policy is going to prevail. Again, the decrease in the volume of legislation may be explained in a variety of ways. Two years ago we were very nearly at the high-water mark of railway regulation, and in many States far-reaching statutes were passed. After such a flood of laws a recession was inevitable. More than that, the decrease in the number of bills in itself might signify little or nothing, even from the railway point of view. For there might be more radical and revolutionary statutes in the 276 of 1911 than in all the 664 of 1909; the character of the legislation might offset its decrease in volume. Thus in New Jersey, in 1911, there were passed but seven laws affecting railways, whereas in 1909 there were eleven. But there is no comparison between the two sets of statutes, for those of 1911 not only constituted an efficient and powerful Public Utilities Commission, but, as the pamphlet before us admits, conferred upon it in addition to the usual powers of a Commission a "number of original provisions," among them the power to compel a railway corporation to build any extension to its lines which the Commission thinks wise.

The idea of a public service commission was bitterly opposed by the railways, notably in New York State. But the record shows no marked diminution—in view of what has already been achieved—of the movement to create or to strengthen commissions. Thus, in addition to what was accomplished under the advice of Gov. Wilson, Indiana has given its Commission a mandatory power over rates instead of a "recommendatory" one, and the new rates, instead of standing for two years, remain in force until the Commission itself alters them. Wisconsin, California, and Minnesota similarly gave to their Commissions absolute power over rates, while Connecticut established a Commission, and in Oregon there was passed an important Public Utilities act. Even the Pennsylvania Legislature, boss-ridden as it is, considered a Public Utilities bill, while the Ohio and Kansas Legislatures extended the jurisdiction of their Commissions over other utilities than railways, as did the New York Legislature in 1910. In Illinois, too, the powers of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission have been enlarged. Plainly, there is nothing in this record to make any one believe that the American public is dissatisfied with the commission idea.

Only in Texas, Georgia, and Delaware were there no railway laws passed in 1911. In twenty-one States, runs the report before us, there were no statutes put on the books "showing hostile manifestations" to railways. Here again a definition would be desirable, for a "hostile manifestation," in the eyes of a railway, might seem to shipper or traveller the best of actions in his behalf. Eight of our commonwealths passed "a great many railway bills" increasing restrictions, yet this list does not include New Jersey or Connecticut. Wisconsin is on this "black-list"; none the less, Senator La Follette and Gov. McGovern testify that public service corporations are wholly out of politics, and that the relations between the public and the railways are much better than ever before. In Alabama, the Association naturally finds a ground for satisfaction in the appeal of the reactionary Gov. O'Neal for the "restoration of conservatism."

Now, unwise legislation there may have been in Alabama and other States, and unwise administration elsewhere. But railway men everywhere must realize by this time that the process of readjusting the relations of railways and governments will go on until the possibility of rate and capitalization abuses is at an end and the railways are out of politics. The most favorable signs of the times are the disappearance of much of the heat and bitterness of the past years. Upon this change in feeling, upon the evidences of coöperation before the Legislatures, among all interested, which was particularly marked in Illinois, the pamphlet before us does well to touch—not, however, because it is to be interpreted as a public desire to follow a new policy, but as proof that the very changes against which the railways protested so vigorously are in daily practice lessening friction and putting an end to strife, besides ending intolerable abuses. In our judgment, this steady progress towards readjustment on a pacific and permanent basis can only be interrupted by blundering on the part of our great railway managers.

PHILANTHROPY AND MURDER.

That the McNamara dynamitings are to be looked upon as acts of war is, very naturally, the view presented by those who regard the existing and historic organization of society as a thing that ought to be overthrown, and look upon a reign of terror as a hopeful means of bringing about that overthrow. That is the view of William D. Haywood, as frankly expressed in his speech at Cooper Union a few days ago. It would be idle to enter upon a discussion of this question unless one were prepared to dig to the bottom of the whole system of economics and ethics upon which civilization has been built up. One remark, however, is worth making in a brief reference to the matter. When it comes to a question of war there is no half-way place. Those who make war upon society must be prepared to suffer the consequences; and on the other hand those who stand for the defence of society, and not for its surrender, must be prepared to inflict, or to sanction the infliction of, the penalties which war decrees. In a civil war there is no room for neutrals.

As to this clear issue between organized society on the one hand and an organized war upon society on the other, there is not much danger of widespread confusion of counsel. But beside this plain and unmistakable view of the McNamara type of violence as a justifiable act of war, there has been put forward a different kind of plea in mitigation, a plea which, in the present condition of popular thinking, is calculated to do a great deal of insidious mischief. There are many good people, especially among the ministers of religion, who, though not only opposed to violence as a means, but also to socialism as an end, seem to think that the McNamara affair offers a favorable opportunity for bringing home to the employing class, and the wealthy classes generally, a needed conviction of sin. In itself, there is perhaps nothing to object to in this view. Any occasion that makes for serious and sober reflection lends itself to the purposes of self-examination and self-reformation. But at a time when a great deal of loose thinking is in the air, touching matters fraught with vital peril, to dull the edge of people's perception in re-

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gard to the central issues of society and law is to incur a grave responsibility; and this is precisely what a great deal of the humanitarian and religious talk stirred up by the McNamara case is calculated to do.

Take the address made by Felix Adler two weeks ago last Sunday, as extensively reported in the next morning's newspapers. We select it not as an example of wild or reckless statement, but quite the contrary. Dr. Adler is an eminently careful thinker and speaker; and in this very instance, unlike some moral teachers of less sobriety, he took care to brand the dynamitings as "not war, but murder." Nor do we believe that in his own mind there was any confusion of thought behind the utterance to which we take exception. We are thinking of the effect likely to be produced on the minds of thousands of well-disposed, but not strong-minded, persons when they read such a passage as this:

> The number of lives blotted out in mines by the criminal carelessness of capital is far greater than the number of deaths from the placing of dynamite bombs. The railroads every year are killing people whose lives would be spared by expenditures for safety devices. There are thousands killed and wounded by the wealthy classes as compared with the twenty-one corpses in Los Angeles.
>
> We should not, of course, too fully associate the two sorts of conditions. There is the difference that there is in the latter case the sheer intent to do that which may mean murder, while the other cases are of indifference.

Now the mild warning that we should not "too fully associate the two sorts of conditions" will quite fail to counterbalance the effect of the parallel, with precisely the class of minds that most need to be protected against dangerous sentimental errors. It is true that more lives are blotted out by the criminal carelessness of capital than by the murderous doings of dynamiters, and it is true that we should work with might and main to prevent such sacrifice of human life; but we should not only refrain from "too fully" associating the two classes of things—we should not associate them at all. For that way lies madness, or its social equivalent, anarchy.

Such a distinction can surely require no elaborate demonstration, for intelligent persons. But perhaps the point may be more effectively driven home if we consider the consequences which the logic of the erroneous parallel carries with it. "Capital" is not alone in its criminal carelessness. All mankind is guilty of it, and has been since history began. If for every life the McNamaras have destroyed "capital" has destroyed its thousands, surely for every life "capital" has destroyed the ordinary every-day man has destroyed his tens of thousands. We destroy them by typhoid when we fail to boil our drinking-water; we destroy them by fire when we use common matches instead of safety matches; the mother destroys her child when she permits it to play near the fire, or near a window; we all destroy lives uncounted—not only our own, but those falling under our guardianship—by taking lightly the warnings of science about drinking cups, about dogs, about kissing, about almost every act of human life. We do not assert that these things fall under the same head as "the criminal carelessness of capital"; we do not say that the two things should be "too fully" associated. But if it is a mere question of the number of human lives that might be saved by taking sufficient care, or by incurring expense entirely within the easy reach of the persons responsible, the victims of "capital" are very few in comparison with the victims of every-day human nature. Not upon any such calculation have the standards of mankind, the primary sentiments that lie at the very foundation of civilization, been based. We shall keep on trying to reduce the death rate by sanitary measures and otherwise; we shall keep on trying to force upon "capital" more and more responsibility for the lives and the health of employees; but, if we are not to cut loose from our moorings altogether, we shall keep the thought of these things in quite a different compartment of our minds from that in which we place our detestation of murder, or any of the basic sentiments of civilized society.

THE HAY ARMY BILL.

To the bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, Congressman Hay, Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, has appended a number of proposals for changes in the service which in his opinion will lead to economy and betterment. Some of them have stirred the army to an unusual degree and called out the opposition of the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of War. A truce declared for the holidays, expires early this month; after that the War Department, with the possible exception of the Adjutant-General, will endeavor to bring about a modification of some proposals and the abandonment of others.

Primarily, Mr. Hay's programme differs from the Republican legislation of the last thirteen years in that it proposes retrenchments and a decrease in the number of officers. Thus, it would cut the number of major-generals from seven to five and of brigadier-generals from sixteen to twelve, and do away with the brigadier-general who is Chief of Coast Artillery. Naturally, this is enough to make the service unhappy, because it feels that there are, as it is, not enough line generals to offer much opportunity for high rank and pay to ambitious officers. A still more important provision is the consolidation of the Quartermaster's, Subsistence, and Paymaster's Departments into one corps, to be known as the Supply Corps. This highly desirable reform was advocated by Mr. Root when Secretary of War, but without success. It has been urged by every intelligent writer on army affairs for years past in order to end the absurd situation under which three separate bodies of officers perform the duties carried on in the navy by the paymasters alone—with much resultant waste of funds and loss of efficiency. The new Secretary of War urged this change in his annual report. It is most surprising, therefore, to find that the only dissentient is Major-General Wood, the Chief of Staff, who, after advocating the consolidation on May 4, 1911, as a "good bill," one to "promote both efficiency and economy," has now, for reasons best known to himself, decided to oppose the change, ostensibly because it means an eventual saving of ninety-nine staff officers and the transferring of some of them to the line, where they may retard promotions.

If there is otherwise a chorus of approval of this proposed reform, the similar plan to consolidate the Adjutants-General and Inspectors-General with the General Staff is calling forth protests on every side. In our opinion, the principle involved is correct. We have never been able to see why an inspector-general should be a permanent officer or a detailed officer set apart in a special corps. No one maintains that an inspector must have particular military

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qualifications; at least none have ever been exacted of appointees to the Inspector-General's Department; and the same is true of the adjutants-general, whose sole duties are clerical. Originally intended to be merely military secretaries to generals, they actually received those new titles a few years ago, only to have the old ones restored. As a result, we have the present anomalous situation at the War Department, which contains two major-generals, the Chief of Staff and the Adjutant-General, who divide between them the real power and are at swords' points. This natural antagonism is now accentuated by the fact that both of them are excessively ambitious men, able enough, and both of them without training in the line of the army, being graduates of the Medical Corps. We do not know what schools of medicine they belong to, but they could not be more opposed if one were an allopath and the other a homœopath. Dr. Ainsworth gives the Congress military opinions one day which Dr. Wood is apt to contradict the next.

In so far, however, as the Hay bill interferes with the present General Staff Corps by adding permanent officers to it, we believe that it should be amended or its language clarified. The *Nation* was among the first to urge, twenty or more years ago, the formation of such a body. It understood then as now the dangers which would result if that body obtained great powers. Hence it insisted on the two-year detail system as the best safeguard against aggrandizement of power. Were the present permanent officers of the Inspector and Adjutant-General's Department all to be retired now, we presume there would be little or no objection to the proposed consolidation. It should seem, therefore, as if the prompt application of the detail system and the return of the permanent staff officers back to the line of the army would be the way out. Indeed, this may be now intended by Mr. Hay; but it is, unfortunately, true that the army now regards this section of the bill as a blow at the detail system in the General Staff and a plan to place the control of the army in the hands of a small group of officers.

As a matter of fact, that is where it rests to-day and has rested for years past, if not always. The War Department officials have never bagged so many favors for themselves or so many line generalcies as within the last four years. If necessary to prevent future undue growth of power in the General Staff, the right to make details to it could be strictly limited so that men should not constantly be re-detailed—a danger now in evidence. Perhaps it would have been better if Mr. Hay had introduced separate bills for each important measure: he also provides for the long-desired army service corps and abolishes the division of militia affairs, against which there are also vigorous protests. But the temptation to attach these measures to the appropriation bill, in view of the Republican Senate and President, was doubtless too hard to resist. In conference and debate the weaknesses of the bill will, we trust, be done away with. But we cannot fail to record our belief that, in the main, if the General Staff is duly safeguarded, the passage of the bill would mean a wonderful step forward in the modernization of the army and its administration as an efficient branch of the Government, instead of being inefficient, extravagant, and wasteful.

THE CHANGING ORIENT.

Even the sturdiest believer in the gospel that this is a white man's world must feel that the great event of the year which has just closed is not to be looked for in the twelve months' record of Western civilization. Asia has taken the centre of the stage. What is now going on in China is bound to transcend in importance all our tariff revision and Presidential speculations, all of Lloyd George's insurance schemes, all Franco-German bickerings and adjustments. And this will hold not only for the year 1911, but for the half-dozen years that preceded it. Many years from now, when historians appraise the permanent contribution to human progress made by the first decade of the twentieth century, they will very likely find that, in spite of radium, wireless, and the aeroplane, the West has experienced no such profound change as has come during these years over the mind and spirit of the supposedly unchanging East. We are fond of speaking of the heightened consciousness that must animate men living in a great generation. Are we aware to-day that we are the witnesses of, and to a certain degree the participants in, a phase of historical evolution that is worthy to be compared with any era in history? For what we are witnessing to-day is nothing less than the moral transformation of Asia, which means the moral transformation of more than half the human race.

China is to-day the dramatic example. But the forces that have broken out with such violence have manifested themselves elsewhere in the East; with equal power in Turkey and Persia, with greater restraint in India. Just where the rush of events is carrying us one dare not say. But the one great thing that has been accomplished is the shattering of what may be called the Caucaso-centric theory of the universe, the belief in a dual law of civilization which decrees that one portion of the human race is born to move forward and another portion to stand still, one portion to rule and another portion to serve, one portion to whom ideas are living things and another portion to whom they are inaccessible. These have been a bitter half-dozen years for the political philosophers of the West and their generalizations about the peoples of the East. The philosophers had no trouble in proving that Mohammedanism and representative government were impossible; so Turkey worked out a constitutional revolution unhampered by the priests, and Persia established a constitutional government under the leadership of its priests. The philosophers had no difficulty in showing that the caste system in India makes the idea of self-government a delusion. But caste in India is giving way before the newspaper and the college, and the British Government is conceding self-government to India. The philosophers had no trouble in showing that the Oriental mind rejects the idea of liberty and demands to be governed by despots. So China to-day is on the verge of establishing a republic. We must do the philosophers justice: now that things are what they are, they have discovered that the Chinese are at bottom a democratic people, and have always enjoyed a generous measure of self-government.

A great many books have been written by Europeans in the last fifteen years or so about the awakening of China. The long-predicted awakening is now taking place, but after a manner quite disconcerting to the European experts. Almost everywhere it was taken for

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granted that China would awaken to the more doubtful blessings of Western civilization—to a great standing army with which she could menace the peace of the world, and to a great navy with which she might set out in search of coaling-stations, spheres of interest, and indemnities. China, in other words, was to become a Power strong enough to send the other Powers about their business, thereby gaining their respect and forbearance. So all the talk was of modern armies, arsenals, navy yards, reformed economics, regular taxes, mines, railways, factories—in short, a huge awakening in which the nobler aspirations of the nation were quite overlooked. That the Chinese people should desire freedom from Manchu misgovernment as well as from foreign aggression; should desire a free press, and free speech, honest administrators, honest judges, schools, libraries; in other words, Progress—this our Western students of the Chinese awakening did not foresee. The regeneration of the Empire was to come through its armies; the regeneration of China through the force of ideas takes them by surprise. They expected that things would begin to happen as soon as China could put a million men into the field. They did not foresee that the great awakening would come when China could count five thousand students educated abroad in the ideas of constitutional government and liberty.

For the time being, no doubt, the ferment of new ideas in China carries its perils. Mere inertia kept the decrepit Empire together, whereas a Chinese Republic threatens civil war, foreign intervention, and possible dismemberment. Our Western blessings come to the Eastern peoples sadly disguised. For while the guileless Oriental is busy putting our Western ideas into practice, the Western Powers are equally busy in taking advantage of the resulting inevitable confusion to prey upon the guileless Oriental. The future of constitutional China feeling its painful way amidst a circle of ravening Powers is by no means a reassuring one. But the future of the Chinese people can never be worse than the present when the Chinese people has demonstrated its ability to recognize and overthrow an unjust system. The future of the East can never be hopeless, once a quietus has been given to the dying traditions concerning Oriental incapacity, Chinese immovability, and Persian what not. Looking beyond the immediate peril besetting the independence and integrity of the Chinese Empire, we find a permanent gain in the slow disappearance of the fetich of race supremacies.

THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION.

URBANA, Ill., December 30.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Association was held at Chicago during the holidays. This was the second union meeting of the Central Division of the Association with the parent organization. It was the guest this year of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago; and the sessions were held alternately in the buildings of the two institutions. The attendance, since this was a union meeting, was considerably larger than it usually is at the annual gathering, nearly three hundred being present. The question of attendance seems to be determined, however, in the mind of the modern-language savant, not so much by the distance as by the direction in which he must travel to reach the place of meeting. In other words, his going is decided, not on a basis of mileage, but of longitude. It appears to be far more difficult for the learned to travel westward than eastward. "What I like about these meetings," said one of those present, "is the fact that I learn such a lot. Why, I've just made a most interesting geographical discovery. I've found that it is one thousand miles from Chicago to New York, and two thousand from New York to Chicago." As a result of this paradox, the attendance of the more eminent scholars, heads of departments in Eastern universities, was noticeably small. If these men realized how much the young Western teachers, many of whom are their former students, would value their presence, and the opportunity to greet them, and to report progress, they would make the necessary sacrifice to attend. As it was, an inquiry for the more prominent Eastern educators at this meeting might have elicited some such response as that which Maria Edgeworth recounts, as having been given by an Irishman to an inquiry whether there were many absentee landlords. The reply was "The country's full of them." Conspicuous as an exception to the number of absentees was, however, Professor Kittredge of Harvard, who gave a delightful "smoke-talk" on Thursday evening at the University Club. His general topic was "Pedants," whom he defined as those who habitually employ a set of technical terms different from our own. Professor Kittredge's paper, with its quasi-scholarly divisions into chapters, sections, and sub-divisions, was itself a burlesque upon pedantry. In the general method of its satire, it recalled De Quincey's famous essay "On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts," or perhaps still more Sterne's whimsical burlesque of scientific method with which he now and again diversified the later chapters of "Tristram Shandy."

The serious programme was, as a whole, fairly representative of the modern language scholarship of the country. In the twenty-six papers read at the five sessions, fourteen of the Eastern and Central States were represented, Massachusetts and Texas being the most distant from Chicago. Naturally, the Mississippi Valley was the most fully represented. Illinois led with seven papers; Wisconsin came next with three; Michigan, Ohio, and Maryland followed with two each; and New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, and Iowa were each represented by one paper. None of these papers was of distinctly popular interest. The nearest approach was, probably, Prof. F. N. Scott's on "A Simple Phonetic Alphabet." This was a discussion of a set of simple visual symbols, chosen on a phonetic basis, that might theoretically be substituted for the present English alphabet.

At the session Friday morning the following officers were chosen: For president, Prof. C. H. Grandgent of Harvard; for first, second, and third vice-presidents, Prof. Felix Schelling of the University of Pennsylvania, Prof. E. P. Baillot of Northwestern University, and Prof. Philip Allen of the University of Chicago; for secretary, Prof. W. G. Howard of Harvard University; for treasurer, Prof. Karl Young of the University of Wisconsin. Next year's place of meeting for the Central Division was announced as Indianapolis; that for the Eastern Division has not yet been selected, but seems likely to be Philadelphia.

E. C. B.

SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

NEW YORK, December 30.

The annual sessions of this society were held in New York on December 28 and 29, at the General Theological Seminary. Three sessions were held on Thursday and one on Friday. The business reports showed a membership of 222 names and increased activity in publications. The president's address, which is the feature of the opening session, was given by Prof. E. D. Burton of the University of Chicago, who discussed in a strikingly illuminating manner "Some Phases of the Synoptic Problem." The main aim of the paper was to counteract the present tendency in New Testament research of assuming a single source as the basis of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and regarding this source as identical with the sub-

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stance of the Gospel according to Mark —admittedly the oldest of the three. Professor Burton's contention was that all three Gospels represent the third generation of traditions and views regarding the Gospel story; that behind, or in addition to, any possible common substratum, we must assume two or three, or possibly even more sources that were at the disposal of Matthew and Luke, at all events. The Synoptic Problem thus hinges on the endeavor to reach back to the sources of the sources and so far as possible to restore these sources. Naturally, a thesis of this character affects the historical value of the material embodied in the Gospels, and in the course of an interesting discussion on this aspect of the problem, Professor Burton maintained that the investigation from the historical point of view must be postponed until the differentiation of the sources and the character of each of these sources had been satisfactorily determined.

There were more New Testament papers than last year, but, as usual, those concerned with Old Testament themes predominated. Easily the most important feature of the sessions was the announcement by Prof. Henri Hyvernat of the Catholic University of Washington, D. C., that J. Pierpont Morgan had acquired above fifty Coptic manuscripts discovered by Arabs about a year and a half ago, amid the ruins of a small monastery in the southwestern part of the Fayum. Mr. Morgan has virtually the entire library of the Coptic monastery in question, which, bearing the name of the Archangel Michael, dates back beyond the ninth century. We thus obtain for the first time an accurate view of the character and extent of such convent libraries in Christian Egypt. The manuscripts are fortunately dated, the oldest, from the year 825 A. D., being actually older than any Coptic manuscript hitherto known. Apart from the intrinsic value of the manuscripts, the full extent of which can only be estimated after their publication, the collection is noteworthy because of the beautiful leather bindings and of the interesting and educative illuminations. Professor Hyvernat closed his account of the manuscripts by the statement that all the other Coptic manuscripts known to exist do not equal one-half the value of this collection, which will make New York the centre of Coptic studies. We are fortunate in having in this country, in Professor Hyvernat, one of the leading Coptic scholars, under whose direction the publication of the manuscripts will be undertaken.

The recent publication, through Professor Sachau, of the Aramaic papyri found at Elephantine lent a special interest to Professor W. R. Arnold's interpretation of one of these documents, shedding further light on the religious conditions in the Jewish colony at Neb (the ancient name of Elephantine) in the fifth century B. C. This document is a letter of Chananyah to the head and to the chief men of the Jewish colony giving directions for the observance of the Passover festival. The directions agree with the laws prescribed in the priestly code, except that, in addition to the prohibition of everything leavened, a beverage is also forbidden which Professor Arnold (on the basis of a suggestion by Professor George F. Moore) identified with the famous Egyptian beer, made of barley and, therefore, subject to fermentation. There is no reference to the Passover sacrifice, and Professor Arnold was disposed to draw therefrom the conclusion that the writer who represents the Palestinian objection against sacrifices outside of the central sanctuary at Jerusalem, was aiming to make the Jews of Elephantine conform to the practice and authority of the priests of Jerusalem. The Elephantine documents thus show us the Jewish Church, with a central absolute authority in Jerusalem in the making.

The contributions of Prof. Paul Haupt of the Johns Hopkins University this year were two papers, one on a denunciation of Edom and a song of triumph over Edom's downfall, embodied in the forty-ninth chapter of Jeremiah. According to Professor Haupt, this composition is a patriotic poem written several hundred years after Jeremiah on the occasion of the campaign of John Hyrcanus against the Edomites in 128 B. C. The poem would thus belong to the Maccabean period, which was a time of great literary activity among the Jews. The other paper furnished another illustration of this activity, for Professor Haupt also claims the famous Ninetieth Psalm, entitled "A Prayer of Moses," for the Maccabean age.

Among the papers on the New Testament, mention should be made of an important communication by Prof. James A. Montgomery of the University of Pennsylvania, on "New Testament Quotations in the Odes of Solomon," in which he pointed out that in parts of the composition regarded by Harnack and Spitta as belonging to the original Jewish sections there were undoubted quotations from the New Testament and also distinct allusions to it, while the quotations from the Old Testament were almost wholly from those books—the Psalms and the theological parts of the Wisdom Literature—that were the favorite sections of the early Christian Church. All this indicates that the Odes are an expression of Christian thought. The name "Odes of Solomon" Professor Montgomery thinks due to their likeness to the mystically interpreted Canticles or "Song of Songs," attributed to Solomon.

At the session on Thursday evening the report of Prof. C. R. Brown, as director of the American School of Archæology at Jerusalem for the past year, was read. It appears that, until the school can obtain the funds required to erect a permanent home on the site acquired in Jerusalem, no systematic excavations can be undertaken, and, indeed, very little work of a really original character carried on. In view of the activity of the English, German, and French in this particular, it is deplorable that the comparatively small sum needed should not be forthcoming. Is this perhaps due to the lack of concentrated and systematic efforts?

Before adjourning the Society elected officers for the ensuing year. Professor Paton was chosen president, and Prof. George A. Barton of Bryn Mawr College vice-president. The Society decided to meet next year in conjunction with the Archæological Institute of America.

M. J., JR.

Correspondence

COMPETITION AND MONOPOLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In the *North American Review* for December ex-Senator Edmunds has an important article upon the Anti-Trust law, in which it appears that the Judiciary Committee of the Senate which framed the so-called Sherman law had no "fear that some literal construction of the words 'restraint of trade' in the act might lead to the sacrifice of some just, fair, and wholesome business arrangements . . . for if the principle and purpose of the Constitution and act have any foundation at all, there can be no such restraint, because such conduct is not restraining, but is promotive of and beneficial to the public interest."

Accepting the above as a correct statement of the intention of the lawmakers, why are the business men of this country still so uncertain of the meaning of the law that they are afraid to enter into what have been customary methods for restraining destructive competition? In the majority of instances, these arrangements have not been a real restraint upon trade; rather, they have been for the public interest, as well as the salvation of industries. To understand this it is necessary that we should have clear ideas as to what these methods are, and the motives that prompted them.

A certain article of merchandise in general use is made by half a dozen manufacturers, and is being sold at a price which gives a fair profit to the makers. Into this field come a couple of new manufacturers of the same commodity, who believe that in order to introduce their goods quickly they must sell them at a lower price. The old makers meet the price to protect their trade, the new makers go lower still, and this goes on until all the manufacturers are selling at or near to cost, and sometimes even below it. It is not to the public interest to have this continue until several failures have occurred, factories closed, and employees are deprived of work. The

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methods that have been generally adopted to put a stop to this cut-throat competition are to call a meeting of the competing manufacturers, and to agree upon an advance in prices. This agreement, under the usual interpretation of the Sherman law, is considered by many to be "in restraint of trade," and if the lawfulness of each separate case has to be settled by the courts it will impose so much hardship and expense as to make the remedy impossible. It has taken twenty years for the Supreme Court of the United States to decide that the construction which Senator Edmunds says was intended by the Judiciary Committee is the proper one, but a doubt still exists as to what business restrictions are reasonable or unreasonable.

From these trade agreements, or combinations, all of the later forms of so-called "Trusts" have come. When I entered business above fifty years ago, they were beginning to be noticeable, and were then regarded as extra-legal, if not illegal under the common law. They were also transitory, and had to be renewed every year or two, whenever the number of competitors were many. To escape from possible illegality and to insure greater permanency, the best legal minds were employed, and various forms of organization were devised, ending in the "holding companies" or complete consolidation. In the meantime, the Government took hold of the problem in the wrong way. Instead of legalizing these combinations and thereby obtaining the power to regulate them, it attempted by means of the Sherman law to restore competition to its old place, as a regulator of policies and prices. Under modern business conditions this is impossible, for reasons which ought to be obvious. If laws had been framed, as suggested by Prof. Henry C. Adams twenty-four years ago, to "raise the ethical level of competition," and also laws to regulate all attempts at monopoly, and to prevent over-capitalization of stock companies, we should not be in our present plight.

The immediate question is "how shall we get out of this plight?" On the 23d of April, 1887, the *Post-Express* of Rochester, N. Y., published an article of mine on "Competition and Monopoly," in which the industrial necessities that led to the formation of trade combinations were set forth, and the obvious advantages of bringing them under the law by recognizing them and regulating them. After a discussion of the advantages of competition and monopoly, both economically and socially, the following conclusion was reached:

> There are two alternatives for the regulation of monopoly; carefully guarded franchises or official commissions, and it is obvious that the first requires something in the nature of the second to see that the privileges granted are not overstepped. These commissions are growing in favor, and seem to be the most efficient means yet devised for preventing the dangers of monopoly. They may be said to be extensions of the judicial system, as their function is to prevent unjust discriminations, but being administrative, rather than judicial, can decide more promptly and establish rules of conduct, which will be quickly understood and easily followed. They leave the ownership of property in private hands, and therefore secure its most efficient and economical administration.

Nearly all the affirmative legislation now proposed is taking the form suggested above. When so many thoughtful men, as indicated by the poll which Mr. Seth Low took among the business men, agree upon a solution, that plan is worthy of trial. The present status is not satisfactory, and the proposal of a few members of the Congress, to enforce rigidly the Sherman law, by amending it so that the "rule of reason" shall not apply, would be destructive. Fortunately, the decision of the Supreme Court, and the explanation which ex-Senator Edmunds has just made as to the intent of the law, will prevent any such legislation.

ROBERT MATHEWS.

Rochester, N. Y., December 26.

PROFESSIONAL ENGLISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Of the printed things that come to a college office, the freest from traces of professional training are the circulars from teachers concerned with English.

The New England colleges have just received "an open letter to teachers of English by (*sic*) the Executive Committee of the New York State Association of Teachers of English." The first sentence contains an *it* with antecedent in the third noun back. A little below appears an *is* that should be *are*. As you turn the first page, in slips the mixed metaphor: "The schools are swamped . . . to the exclusion of a wide range of . . . books covering the whole field . . ."

This particular Committee, in its way of saying things, seems to be loyal to the State Association; at all events, a piece of the Society's own English, introducing the open letter, shows no less plainly how writing has gained freedom since King James's day; for in nine consecutive lines eighteen per cent. of the words are *of's*.

Unless there are unseen reasons why thorough teachers of English, in discussing requirements for college, should enjoy privileges denied to grammar-school boys, could not the instructions of delegates to the approaching National Conference well include a reminder that in the teaching of English, also, precept implies example?

WILLIAM M. WARREN.

Boston University, December 19.

"YEOMAN'S SERVICE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: One frequently sees in the papers—indeed I am afraid I have seen it in the classical diction of *Nation* editorials—the phrase, "yeoman's service" used to signify eminent or distinguished service. That is not the meaning. It comes from the feudal tenures, under which the yeoman held his land by services regarded as humbler than the knight's service; and hence "yeoman's service" means humble but useful service. It has attained general currency from its use by Hamlet, where, speaking of his ability to write a clerkly hand (an accomplishment which he had despised as "a baseness," and unworthy of a prince), he says that on this occasion it did him useful, if humble service—"yeoman's service"—in enabling him to forge a commission apparently from the Danish chancery.

H.

Rider, Md., December 28.

THE GUILT OF THE McNAMARAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As one of the least of those who, by written and spoken word, defended the McNamaras before their confession, may I be permitted a comment upon your editorial of December 14?

Apart from all questions of the advisability of the use of force, it seems to me that union labor's quarrel with the McNamaras lies most properly in their betrayal of their fellow-unionists. Whether the accused believed in their methods or regretted them, they should either have admitted their guilt upon being arrested, as the Russian revolutionists do, and before the unionists contributed towards their defence, or else they should not have confessed at all.

You complain, however, of the fact that "on the main question of the violent championing of the McNamaras" the explanations of their erstwhile defenders are "labored and weak," and you say that, had those defenders been "really cautious," they "would not have filled the air with cries about a 'frame-up' and perjured testimony."

Had the McNamara case been the first in which union leaders were accused of murder, yours would be a fair attitude; but this was not the first case. Those defenders of the McNamaras who believed in the innocence of the accused and in the justice of courts, "filled the air with cries of a 'frame-up' and perjured testimony" because they remembered the Butte trial of Moyer and Haywood, who were accused of committing murder by just such means as those attributed to the McNamaras. Yet a jury found that Moyer and Haywood were innocent, and that, therefore, the testimony produced against them—the dynamite "discovered" by Pinkertons and the "confession" of Orchard, the Butte McManigal—must have been frame-up and perjury. With a court's proceedings proving that such things were possible in Montana, why should there have been cause to doubt that they were possible in Indiana and California?

REGINALD WRIGHT KAUFFMAN.

Columbia, Pa., December 22.

Literature

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF ARGENTINA AND CHILI.

Argentine Plains and Andine Glaciers: Life on an Estancia and an Expedition into the Andes. By Walter Larden, M. A., late Lecturer at the Royal Naval Engineering College, Devonport (England), Author of "Recollections of an Old Mountaineer." With a map and ninety-one illustrations. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. $3.75 net.

This book is agreeably distinguished from most of the numerous works that have recently appeared relating to South America by a sort of simplicity and directness which put us in a closer and more definite touch with the country described than do the more elaborate

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treatises which attempt to be encyclopædic. The author writes only about the things he has actually seen or done. He describes one particular estancia (farm or ranch) in Argentina, which is the property of his brother; tells us what the typical farmhouse is like, what are the crops, and the live stock, and the workpeople, and the sort of life that is led by them and by the owner of the property. He makes us feel in what kind of way it is that the country has grown and is growing; and without laying himself out for artistic treatment, he succeeds in presenting a picture of the vast sunburnt, bare, dusty, or muddy plain, stretching out to infinity in every direction, which is producing larger and larger crops and enriching the cultivators so rapidly in good years that they can stand being almost ruined in the years when the locusts descend upon them. He gives a description which is graphic because it enters into the small, everyday details of the work done on an estancia and the people who do it. These are mostly Italian immigrants, divided into two classes. Those from the north are for the most part steady and industrious workers, able to live on little and do without comforts. They are called *par excellence* "Italianos." The South Italians, such as Calabrians and Sicilians, incline to stay in the towns and live by odd jobs or common trades there, and they bear, as in this country, not so good a character for honesty or order. The labor of these Italians of the former class has done more than any other, says our author, to bring the land into good condition; once it has been improved, the landowner can get on well enough with the native peon, and let his Italians move further to new lands to be reclaimed or take up, as they sometimes do, a small farm on lease.

Of the native peon Mr. Larden takes a hopeful view. Forty years ago he was a Gaucho, something like a Texas cowboy, only rougher and more ignorant, and with a touch of native Indian blood. How much of this blood has entered into the race, Mr. Larden does not seem to know. Probably not very much, for there were few aborigines in the Pampas; they occasionally attacked the early settlers, but were pretty easily driven off, and gave on the whole very little trouble—hardly as much as the North American Indians did in Virginia and the Carolinas in the seventeenth century. It is only in the far north of modern Argentina, and particularly in the plains of the Gran Chaco that an aboriginal population now remains. To-day the "old-style" Gaucho, be he pure Spaniard or of mixed blood, has almost disappeared, except in the wilder outlying parts of the country. His children have subsided into the peon, who is still rather rough, very ignorant, a good rider, and expert (in the pastoral districts) in the use of the lasso, but otherwise what would be called an ordinary agricultural laborer. The illlustrations, taken from the author's own photographs, are quite good, and give a lively impression of Argentine rural life.

The same directness and careful observation of details which make our author's account of farm matters valuable are seen also in his description of the animal life of the country. Most of the quadrupeds and birds of the central Pampa are noticed, with a particularly full study of the locusts, which are the chief plague of the farmer here, as in South Africa and parts of Western Asia. The only chance of diminishing their ravages is by killing as many as possible in pits dug in the line of their march when they are still moving forward on foot. Once they begin to fly, the case is hopeless. Mr. Larden's history of a locust invasion, as seen at an estancia in the State of Santa Fé, is calculated to appall any one thinking of buying a farm in the country. Nevertheless, the farmers thrive.

About a third of the book is devoted to a narrative of an excursion into the Argentine Andes above Mendoza, and into the valleys which lead up to the great summits of Aconcagua, 23,000 feet high, loftiest of all South American mountains, and Tupungato, which is only a thousand feet lower. Both are extinct volcanoes, and both have been ascended by an English climber, Mr. Vines, accompanied by a Swiss guide. The scenery seems to be grand, for these peaks rise fifteen thousand feet above the level of the main valley which lies between them, but bare and dreary, the country being dry and sterile, without trees or shrubs, or even grass. These valleys, and indeed all the eastern spurs and valleys of the Andes in this region, are uninhabited, there being no possibility of cultivating the arid soil, although when the rivers get out into the plains they are used for irrigation and the soil is made to yield excellent crops. From this wild region he crossed the Uspallata Pass, the tunnel which now pierces the Andes at this point not having been completed till 1910, and spent a few days in Chili, visiting the cities of Santiago and Valparaiso. He was struck, as most travellers are, by the difference between the social and political character of two countries lying side by side and inhabited by people mainly of the same Spanish race, and as his reflections are short and to the point, they may be quoted:

> After the vast formless plains of Argentina, Chili seemed to me attractive through possessing form and character. You might be dropped almost anywhere in the Central Pampas of Argentina, and it would look all the same; it would be like being dropped anywhere at sea. But in Chili each part had its individuality, and I felt that while you might very easily acquire quite a passionate love for life in the Pampas, in Chili you would rather get a love for the country itself as your home and adopted fatherland. I think patriotism would thrive more in Chili than in Argentina, just as love for a person is more easily entertained than love for a formless spirit. Then the population in Chili seemed more homogeneous, more of a nation, while in Argentina, which seemed to me to be rather a vast region for "getting on in" than a country in the sense that France is a country, the population appeared to be as yet not a nation but a mixture of unblended nationalities (p. 276).

In Argentina that which strikes the author most, as it strikes pretty nearly all reflective travellers whose minds are not fixed upon "industrial development," is the preoccupation of everybody with material things and material progress. There is, except in a few small cultivated circles in Buenos Ayres and Cordoba, very little interest in intellectual pursuits, or in any form of literature and science. These may come, but they have not yet arrived. Even politics, which furnish occupation to plenty of Spanish Argentinos—for the foreigners of some social position, such as the English and German merchants and owners of estancias, as well as the humbler Italian and Basque immigrants have nothing to do with them—even politics are of much less interest to the average Argentine than is the weather, for it is upon rain that the prosperity of the country for the next six months depends.

CURRENT FICTION.

The Blood of the Arena. By Vicente Blasco Ibáñez. Translated by Frances Douglas. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co.

The bull-fight has frequently been described by romanticists in quest of local color, and by humanitarians disgusted with its brutalities; but the picture has always been one-sided and incomplete. It has remained for the Valencian novelist to depict Spain's national spectacle as it actually is, with all its glamour of romance and all its savagery as well. Blasco Ibáñez is, perhaps, the most vigorous present exponent of Zola's moribund naturalistic school. In "The Blood of the Arena" (an unhappy rendering of the original title, "Sangre y Arena"), he has carefully followed Zola's formula. He has not merely described a few corridas, but has made a minute study of the bull-fight from every conceivable point of view. The rearing of bulls for the arena, the training of matadors, the daily life of the thousand and one hangers-on of the ring, all this and much more claims his attention. He has Zola's skill in describing a crowd, and the French novelist's ability to make literary use of a mass of carefully gathered data.

The early life of the hero, Gallardo, is said to be a faithful biography of An-

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tonio Fuentes, the greatest of living matadors. An untutored son of the people, he soon develops a passion for the sport, distinguishes himself at amateur bull-fights, and finally, at the expense of numerous wounds, acquires that marvellous skill which makes him first in his profession. He is now the idol of the populace. His income is that of a grandee; but he spends it as freely as it comes. Finally, the inevitable happens. He is gored by a bull, and henceforth loses much of his former audacity and skill. The fickle populace turns upon him. To retrieve his reputation, he takes greater and greater risks, until at last he meets death on the bull's horns. In describing Gallardo's end, the author has accurately portrayed the death of Pepete, which occurred under precisely similar circumstances many years ago in the plaza of Madrid. The book is a terrible arraignment of the national sport, but, unlike the ordinary novel with a purpose, the author's private opinions are not obtruded upon the reader. Facts speak for themselves. It is not until the last sentence of all that Blasco Ibáñez gives the reader a clue to his own attitude: he has advanced in art since writing "The Cathedral." By reserving the worst horrors for the last chapter, he clearly intends that the reader shall close the book with a feeling of loathing and disgust; but the author's method is so subtle that, in spite of his well-known advanced views, few foreign reviewers have recognized that the work is an attack upon the bull-fight. The translator of the present edition has done her difficult task well. It is to be regretted that there has been such an evident appeal to lovers of sensation. The gaudy binding and the crude, colored illustrations will cause many readers who are influenced by external appearances to shun a work which merits serious attention.

The Nine-tenths. By James Oppenheim. New York: Harper & Bros.

Many a short story of Mr. Oppenheim's is a pithier contribution to the social question than is this novel. Apparently, he has yielded to a journalistic impulse to "write up" two signal episodes in New York's industrial history while they are yet fresh in the memory. Joe Blaine is a good "average" American citizen, prosperous owner of a large printing establishment. Through negligence—partly venal and partly indulgent—a fire originates in Joe's printery and spreads to the upper stories of the loft building. There is but one elevator, and that rickety. The fire escape is broken; sixty girls employed in a hat factory above the printery are burned or jump to their death. In horror and remorse Joe realizes the crime of being an "average American. . . . In his rush for success he had made property his treasure instead of human beings." While the impulse to make reparation is working in him, he attends the mass-meeting at which the public sentiment roused by the fire found voice, and here it is that his eyes are opened to the existence of a "monstrous social cleavage," and a "strong working-class movement." Wishing to ally himself with the latter, he reads extensively to inform himself in social science, until he is fed full of hopeful ideas and fired with desire "to go and live among the toilers, get to know them, and be the means of arousing and training them." West Tenth Street is chosen for the scene of his essay, and a workingman's paper is to be his instrument of influence. The success of the sheet immediately brings him into touch with the forces of organized labor. Before he knows it, he is in the thick of hostilities, engineering a shirtwaist-makers' strike. The protracted struggle exhausts his enthusiasm. His faith in this weapon wanes as he counts the cost of victory to the workers themselves and the undeserved cruelties it has inflicted upon both sides. He is even perplexed to know where justice lies. "Facts in a fierce stampede [had] engulfed and swept him along and put all his dreams to a galloping test, a test wherein he had even forgotten his dreams. *He had gone the way of all reformers*, first the explosive arousal, then the theory, then the test."

Yet after Joe has recuperated and married the Myra who has attended with interest the working out of his experiment, he views the "human muddle," if with less assurance, still with no less hope. "Life! Life itself—not our interpretation—is the great working force!"

Mr. Oppenheim can hardly help being interesting when he writes about New York. Among the host of writers whom she has inspired, the "great world city" has no lover like him, with an eye for her pageants and a mind for their meanings. But in this work he has neglected his fine talent for dramatic construction. Pursuing his proof, he has lost his story among a host of illustrative incident. To introduce some of these he has even abandoned the vantage ground of thorough information and condescended to employ a crude impressionalism most unlike his usual method of attack.

The Haunted Photograph. By Ruth McEnery Stuart. New York: The Century Co.

In telling her stories about the down South darky, Mrs. Stuart has a "way" of her own—a pleasant, unaffected way, that shows quite old-fashioned beside the smart conciseness displayed by most of the fabricators of current fiction. Those of us who are fortunate enough not to have discarded our taste for—let us say Washington Irving—find her altogether delightful. Of this *genre* she can never give us enough. In her judgment of negro character and her interpretation of the negro's emotional problems, there survives a habit of feeling that used to be called Southern, but which is nowadays hard to find, North or South—the merciful tenderheartedness of a dominant towards a dependent race; it widely mitigated in practice the essential evil of slavery, and to many easily satisfied minds constituted a sufficient justification of the institution. In "A Case in Diplomacy," one of the stories of the present volume, this combination of delicacy and leniency is personified, as it were, in the "Marse Horace," who in the capacity of amanuensis exerts himself to accelerate the course of true love amid real difficulties, and to steer it through the more dangerous shallows of a too serene engagement. Joshua, the plantation-hand, is truly a primitive lover, but in his reliance on borrowed eloquence and his impatient misery in a too placid conquest—"*For Gord's sake, git me disingaged, marster*, . . . I done los' my taste for 'er, dat's all"—is he not human under his dark skin? "Whence and Whither" deals gently with some of the disastrous propensities of diluted African blood. It is not often that Mrs. Stuart dwells upon such latent barbarity as that involved in the tangled relationships of "Sassie" Salisbury the mulatto Delilah, Six-Toe Steve, and Choctaw Charley.

The fields to which she invites us in the other two stories of this volume (which, notwithstanding its diminutive bulk, covers Mrs. Stuart's range very completely) are less congenial to her talent. She extends her sympathetic understanding to the gossips of an Arkansas country town and to circles of polite leisure in New York, but she does not infallibly make her readers at home in either.

SHELLEY.

Shelley and his Friends in Italy. By Helen Rossetti Angeli. New York: Brentano's. $3 net.

The Romantic Life of Shelley and the Sequel. By Francis Gribble. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $3.75 net.

The reader who has travelled through the various instalments of the Shelley letters and the lives by Hogg, Peacock, Trelawny, Medwin, Middleton, Dowden, Lady Shelley, Jeaffreson, Clutton-Brock, etc., may be pardoned if, before entering upon these two bulky volumes, he pauses to inquire whether he is not merely retracing his steps. In general, he may be confidently assured that such is the case. Hogg retains his place as the authority on Shelley's life at Oxford. Of all that cloud of witnesses who have offered discordant testimony regarding Harriet Westbrook, Peacock—though less frequently called to the

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stand than the more prejudiced spectators—remains in many respects the best informed on both sides of the question, the most detached, cool, critical, and trustworthy. For the last months in Italy Trelawny's vivid and savory memoir is worth whole libraries by pious pilgrims. Finally, with all his passionate special pleading, Professor Dowden left few indeed of the vital biographical questions unsettled that are not still in dispute to-day.

Miss Angeli gives her entire volume of some 325 pages to a period in Shelley's life covered by Mr. Gribble in about 100 pages. Certainly to discreet lovers of Shelley she will seem to have chosen the better half of the story in turning away from his acrid and rasping boyhood to his tragically chastened twenties. For before his final departure from England he is, despite his appearance of spontaneous activity, only a notably tractable puppet of the Time-Spirit—a little *monstrum horrendum* begotten upon eighteenth-century rationalism by revolutionary enthusiasm. But when the stars of Hume and Paine have waned, and the great prophet Godwin has dwindled into a leech, when Keats, and Dante, and Æschylus have risen in his firmament, when, revolted by the hardness and immobility of objective reality, he has retreated into the pure world of ideas without tangible consequences—then first the unworldly, personal charm of the man finds scope for expansion, and his perilous will spends itself serenely in the creation of "beautiful moral idealisms."

Miss Angeli's principal qualification for dealing with this period is her profound respect for everything touched by the hem of Shelley's garment—a respect which leads to considerable inorganic extension of her narrative. Further, though her book is by no means a biography with a "message," it contains, when it verges on criticism, faded fragments of the old anarchy. Her peculiarly feminine reverence for the "higher" lawlessness and her abjectness in the presence of genius may be illustrated by two characteristic utterances. Speaking of the suffering occasioned to Mary by Shelley's "platonics," she declares that "there is, in general, little sympathy for the wives of geniuses, and we would not willingly lose a verse or a single line to save their feelings, did their lives depend on it. It is their part to endure." That is a substantial contribution to the Shelley question, which only a woman could have made. There we touch upon the true Eternal-Feminine—the ultimate rocky remorselessness towards other members of the sex, which seems to be latent in every woman's breast. This should assist the masculine intellect to excellence of heart and natural store of chivalry and honor find the compulsory restrictions of civilized and family life intolerably galling." To a devout disciple of Shelley that sentence doubtless conveys some high transcendent truth. *Excellence of heart . . . chivalry and honor. . . . find restrictions of civilized and family life intolerably galling.* To a plain man of sense—well, the reviewer hopes, in some ecstatic state such as Porphyry says his master Plotinus four times enjoyed, to be able to see these incompatibles meet in the kiss of peace.

Mr. Gribble, we are happy to say, shakes our dispositions with no such thoughts beyond the reaches of our souls; there is nothing mystical about Mr. Gribble. It was, of course, inevitable that he should write this book, for he is our first authority on the matters treated therein. For Mr. Gribble, needless to say, writing the life of Shelley means discussing fully his relations with women. His discussion, as we should expect, is free from that roseate cloud of sentiment which obscures the judgment of so many of his predecessors. Piercing through the veil of illusion, he looks upon Shelley and Harriet Grove, Harriet Westbrook, Mary Godwin, Jane Clairmont, Emilia Viviani, and Jane Williams with the clear, dispassionate eye of the clubman. Furthermore, he writes with a purpose; he feels himself called upon to thresh this matter out and let us see things as they really were. Shelley himself presents no difficulties. Shelley is only the eternally polygamous male. We are all like that. The theme is inviting. But that is not the unifying principle of Mr. Gribble's book. His main thesis is that Harriet Westbrook was a barmaid. Now, to be sure, Harriet Westbrook was not a barmaid. She was the daughter of a well-to-do, retired hotel-keeper, who sent her to a private school, where she became the intimate associate of Sir Timothy Shelley's daughter before she ever met Percy; according to all accounts, she was graceful, neat, and delicately beautiful; according to Peacock, who was a sensible friend to both Harriet and Shelley, she was well-educated, wrote letters well, was vivacious and cheerful, had good manners, reflected credit upon Shelley in society, was agreeable to his whims in solitude, and "her conduct as a wife was as pure, as true, as absolutely faultless as that of any who for such conduct was held most in honor." But all that is neither here nor there, so far as Mr. Gribble is concerned. He is bent on out-Hogging Hogg, who failed in his attempt to seduce Harriet, and, of course, always spoke of her with great reverence afterward. Mr. Gribble does not find Peacock's mem-

contrasts, to its general rush and go, that Harriet should be a barmaid. This is the way the candid Mr. Gribble begins the theme:

> A man who is born in a stable is, notoriously not a horse; a girl who is born behind a bar is not necessarily a barmaid. But she is apt to look like a barmaid when inspected, from a distance, through the eye-glasses and lorgnettes of the heads of county families; and she is also apt, even though her father has made a competence and retired, to think, feel, and proceed after the fashion of a barmaid in the conduct of the affairs of the heart.—And one knows what that means. Barmaids are, etc., etc.

After this frank exordium on the nature of barmaids, Mr. Gribble lays aside all reservations, and, whenever Harriet appears, quite simply reminds us that she is a barmaid. When Shelley and Harriet were on their honeymoon in Edinburgh, it will be remembered that their landlord demanded that Shelley should treat him and his friends to supper (this was the landlord who proposed in the middle of the night that the guests should wash the bride with whiskey). "Necessity compelling," says Mr. Gribble, "Shelley agreed to this; and Harriet does not seem to have raised any objection. As the daughter of a licensed victualler, she may even have been glad to welcome another licensed victualler as a wedding guest, feeling that his presence would insure geniality." Referring in another connection to the pert Miss Hitchener, he points out that as a school-teacher she was, of course, "less temerarious in such matters than a barmaid." Commenting on Hogg's attempt to seduce Harriet after her marriage, Mr. Gribble explains that he probably meant no harm, but, being left alone with the daughter of a licensed victualler, was obliged to prevent the tedium of hearing her read Robertson's historical works aloud [literary barmaid, as it were] by paying her "such exaggerated compliments as men pay to pretty barmaids." In order to give the last touch of truth to this conception of Shelley's wife, Mr. Gribble, in the dearth of documents, invents outright the imaginary scene of Hogg's explanation to Shelley of how it all happened:

> Shelley! Shelley! My dear Shelley! What an amazing accusation! . . . Harriet complained to you that I chucked her under the chin? Well I never—Do I deny it? you ask. . . . I'd no idea she minded. She didn't seem to at the time, etc.

The honest Hogg's embarrassment here is due, of course, as Mr. Gribble conceives it, solely to the awkwardness of having to explain to Shelley that he has only treated Harriet as he thought all barmaids liked to be treated. But enough of Mr. Gribble and the barmaids! Enough of the Gribbelian

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dust, we forfeit our last titles to truth, and must be prepared to surrender our memories to cold-blooded fabricators of infamy. Some little suffering Harriet underwent in her lifetime from the cloud-born cruelty of her ineffectual angel—a broken heart, the bitter waters of death; but now in the fulness of time let us hope she has expiated her sins in Mr. Gribble's wanton, open-eyed, long premeditated smirching.

The Revolutionary War and the Military Policy of the United States. By Francis Vinton Greene. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. $2.50 net.

This volume, consisting of two disconnected parts, is the first of three intended to "present the essential facts in our military history, and to make such comments upon them as may be useful for the future and interesting for the present." The work is really addressed to the professional soldier, for if our army is to be efficient, "it must study its past history, and draw from it the lessons which are applicable to the future." If, with the clear declaration of purpose thus made by the author in his preface, we couple the inviting title, we have surely a right to expect not so much an account of the campaigns, battles, and skirmishes whose sum constitutes the Revolutionary War, as an attempt to show how the character of that war was conditioned by the nature of the rebel government, and by the circumstances and accidents of the rebel colonists. But these expectations are soon dispelled, for it becomes abundantly clear that what we are reading is after all nothing but the usual narrative. That it is clear and good, part of it, indeed, the description of Greene's Southern Campaign, really excellent, is from our immediate point of view wholly immaterial. Something more is needed in the fulfilment of the author's purpose. We should have liked some information in respect of Washington's dealings with the Congress, some idea of the control of the Congress over the army, and of the defects of the constituted government. Yet they are merely touched upon here and there according to the necessities of the moment.

Equally great is our disappointment that a strictly military subject, the organization of the Revolutionary Army, should, so far as formal treatment is concerned, be wholly ignored. The subject holds the author's attention through barely three pages in the part devoted to Military Policy (pp. 288-291). Of the great heads of supply, administration, equipment, armament, there is not a hint. Knox's services in these matters are not even mentioned. And yet Knox was to Washington, and more, what Lariboisière was to Napoleon. He was 25, 1907. Of misprints, there are few: crombey (p. 102), Popelopen (p. 121), Balcarras (p. 124), Mechlenberg County (p. 224), Yager's brigade on p. 238, as though Yager were a person; Dam for Dan, in margin, p. 232. Ramsour's Mill or Mills of the maps appears as Mill in the text, and Ramsay's Mill, as Mill or Mills, the Hillsboro or the one being uniformly the Hillsborough of the other. The Monmouth map shows no morasses, though this makes no great difference, as one of these morasses is called alternatively ravine in the text, and the map shows ravines. Hale's place of execution is marked in the map opposite p 46 as near Sixty-sixth Street, in that opposite p. 52, as near Forty-fifth Street. The index, made by the publishers, carries mainly proper names, personal and place; of these the number might have been increased with profit.

out his services it is conceivable that even Washington might have failed.

It is easy to say that the author has written a good and clear narrative of the "essential facts" of the Revolutionary War. Never departing from the axis of events, his account should prove more than acceptable to the general reader. Little or no detail is given, and, with the following exception, no original views are set forth. As every one knows, the War of Independence hung fire, so to say, on the British side. Howe more than once had an opportunity either to end the war by a decisive stroke, or, by pressing Washington, to make further effort on the American side impossible. He failed to do either, and whatever the reasons assigned, treachery according to some, metropolitan politics according to others, the matter remains to this day a mystery to all but Gen. Greene. His explanation is simple: at Bunker Hill, Howe completely lost his nerve, and never recovered from the mental paralysis there received. Clinton, too, apparently, on one occasion at least fell under some sort of spell; our author does not hesitate to make him "attribute to Washington almost supernatural powers," as the only explanation of his (Clinton's) concern for the safety of New York in 1777. In the absence of evidence, we are compelled to leave these explanations where they properly belong, in the domain of speculative opinion.

For two things especially, we are indebted to Gen. Greene; he has given a correct measure of the help afforded us by France, and he puts Washington in a true light, as one of the great commanders of all time. We also heartily commend part ii, treating of the Military Policy of the United States, to the attention of those who regard our regular army as not only a menace to our liberties, but as a useless thing in itself. Though it has no real connection with the preceding chapters on the Revolution, it contains much that our people ought to know. And similarly of the appendix by Lieut.-Col. J. R. Kean, of our medical staff; this paper, dealing with the success of our surgeons in stamping out yellow fever in Cuba, is a still greater stranger than part ii. Its presence is due to the generous desire of Gen. Greene to publish to the world the great deeds of our regular service in all branches of its endeavors.

We have to note a few errors. Between pp. 52 and 54, some 6,500 men would seem to have slipped out of Gen. Washington's army. On p. 267, d'Estaing's *fleet* is reported as "engaging in a disastrous repulse" at Savannah. On p. 322, footnote 2, our field artillery is mentioned as having been transferred to the *line* of the army by the Act of January

Notes

Announcement is made that an *English Journal* has been founded by the English teachers of America. It will be issued January 15, and each month thereafter, except July and August, from the University of Chicago Press. The editor is James Fleming Hosic of the Chicago Teachers College.

"Tante," Anne Douglas Sedgwick's new novel, will be published by the Century Company on January 20.

Books promised by the Scribners this month include L. Allen Harker's novel, "Mr. Wycherly's Wards," and a new volume in the Original Narrative of Early American History series, entitled "Narratives of Early Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Jersey, 1630-1708," edited by Dr. Albert Cook Myers.

In a letter to the London *Times*, Edmund Gosse reports that the members of the Nobel Prize Committee of England, of whom he was one, have unanimously decided to lay down their functions of nominating candidates for the Nobel Foundation, which they took up ten years ago. The committee had been appointed, with the knowledge of the Swedish Academy, by the Society of Authors, and now dissolves because its members learn that the Swedish Academy has adopted another system to determine expert opinion in England.

The Baker & Taylor Co. are issuing this week "Corpus Christi Pageants," by Prof. Lyle M. Spencer; "Verse and Worse," by Jack Hazzard, and "Child's Guide to the Bible," by the Rev. George Hodges.

The Société des Gens de Lettres of France announces that it has appointed Frank Allen, 84 Mercer Avenue, Plainfield, N. J., its representative in the United States, and begs members and associates of the Society who have copyrighted French books in this country since 1909, to send Mr. Allen a list and copies of these works.

The third group of volumes in the Home University Library of Modern Knowledge will be issued early in January by Henry

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War," which is the first of a five-volume series on American history within the larger series. Other volumes for issue in January are "The Dawn of History," by Prof. J. O. Myres; "The Papacy and Modern Times," by Rev. William Barry; "A History of Our Time" (1885-1911), by C. P. Gooch; "The Civilization of China," by Prof. H. A. Giles; "Modern English Literature," by G. H. Mair; "The Evolution of Industry," by Prof. D. H. MacGregor, and "Elements of English Law," by Prof. W. M. Geldart.

As a matter of record we mention here Emily S. Hamblen's "Friedrich Nietzsche and His New Gospel" (Badger). The book is of little value except as another indication of the swelling tide of interest, often unintelligent, in Nietzsche's philosophy.

"Little Dorrit," in two volumes, and "Reprinted Pieces," in one volume, bring Scribners' excellent Centenary Edition of Dickens measurably nearer to completion.

The "Almanach de Gotha" for 1912 comes to us, as usual, from Lemcke & Buechner. This is the one hundred and forty-ninth year of its appearance, and it shows no signs of exhaustion. The portraits are the King and Queen of Spain, Luitpold of Bavaria, and Stolypine.

Henry Frowde has done the general reader as well as the scholar a service by issuing in a convenient little volume Bishop Hurd's "Letters on Chivalry and Romance, with the Third Elizabethan Dialogue," edited with Introduction by Edith J. Morley. The text of the "Letters" is a reprint of the first edition which came out in 1762, and has been collated with the last edition which appeared in Hurd's lifetime —that of 1788. The Dialogue has been reprinted from an edition likewise of 1788. In the introduction are expositions of Hurd's writings and the latter's own outline of his career, entitled, "Some Occurrences in My Life."

"Hauff's Specific Relation to Scott" is the title of a paper by Garrett W. Thompson in the Publications of the Modern Language Association. The discussion centres upon Hauff's novel, "Lichtenstein." It is asserted that the love interest of the story, to which its historical and fictitious aspects are subordinated, shows no influence of Scott; but that the types of character employed, the disposal of the incidents, and the progress of the action are unmistakably after Scott's manner. "The Abbott," it appears, "is the most obvious single model of 'Lichtenstein.'" The writer makes much of his contention that from the original purpose of writing an historical romance, "Hauff was swerved by the realism of his own love experience."

In the same journal Eunice R. Goddard argues certain "Psychological Reasons for Lessing's Attitude toward Descriptive Poetry." Lessing in "Laokoon" declares that detailed description of bodies in space is unpoetical, and by reference to the means which poetry should employ and to the practice of Homer he insists that progressive actions are the peculiar subject of poetry. The apparent exception found in Homer's elaborate picture of Alcinous's palace and gardens, he explains away by supposing that its author intended to convey not a detailed image, but an idea of immensity. Consulting the table of the psychologists, the writer of the present paper finds that there are three recognized types of imagination (1) visual, which is very common; (2) auditory, which is confined mainly to musicians and actors; (3) motor, sometimes called verbal-motor. "In this type there are usually two factors present: (1) the images of movements; (2) the images of words. The second factor is dependent on the first, for it consists in a suppressed speech, that is, in suppressed muscle movements in the head or in the throat." From several passages in Lessing's writings she concludes that his imagination was motor and that this fact explains his narrowly prescribed limits of poetry.

The "real" Stevenson, looking out from an unmistakably Scotch face, with shrewd, yet brooding, eye, uncropt locks straggling over a prominent ear, the narrow chest, the beloved dark flannel shirt—an unpublished portrait: this is the only novel feature in Isobel Strong's dainty, blue-bound, 87-page book, "Robert Louis Stevenson" (Scribner, 50 cents net). By way of contrast, the text presents us once again the somewhat idealized Stevenson of popular legend—the frail, imaginative child, the high-spirited youth, the knight errant of letters, the singer of requiems, and maker of prayers, the myth-like white chieftain of a South Pacific isle. It is all done prettily enough, but there is hardly a line that a dozen men who never took down Highland romances from the lips of Tusitala could not have written as well. Most of us have the tale by heart—

> Where is the man that never yet did hear
> Of fair Penelope, Ulysses' queen?

If any such there be, let him buy Mrs. Strong's quintessential narrative, and join the majority.

The Society of Colonial Wars of Michigan has made a new departure from the usual course of confining the activities of the organization to a banquet with eloquent speakers, in publishing the "Journal of J. L. of Quebec, Merchant." The enterprise is due to the initiative of Clarence M. Burton of Detroit, who obtained a transcript of the journal in the British Museum, and, with the assistance of his daughter, has edited it. The J. L. of the manuscript is John Lees, who became active in the affairs of the colony of Quebec shortly after the conquest of that territory by the British. The journal recounts the events of a journey made in 1768 from London to Boston, thence to New York, Albany, Niagara, Detroit, and of the return to Montreal by the St. Lawrence River. It is interesting, contains descriptions of places, and comments on affairs; and the editorial work has been well done.

The latest publication of the prolific State Historical Society of Iowa is the "Life of Henry Dodge," by Louis Pelzer. The history of Iowa does not stretch over a long era, nor is it teeming with the names of men sufficiently noted to deserve a biographical volume. The scantiness of good material has forced the editor of the series in this case to poach on the preserves of the neighboring State of Wisconsin, for the name of Henry Dodge is connected with the territory forming the present State of Iowa only through the fact that he was Governor of Wisconsin Territory during the two years, 1836 to 1838, that it included territory west of the Mississippi. This finesse on the part of an historical society might have been condoned had it resulted in producing a real life study of Henry Dodge, pioneer, Indian fighter, soldier, Governor, and Senator. The rough pioneer environment by which a boy, trained in the school of the hard-fisted, unscrupulous, and dishonest John and Israel Dodge, was educated into a respectable general and Senator, certainly offered an opportunity to the biographer that should have given us a miniature of early Western society. In the 204 pages of this biography we rarely catch a glimpse of the real man; and the moulding forces of the society around him, as it is described here, might have existed, save for the shadowy forms of Indians and boatmen, in almost any part of the globe. The aim of the volume is directed at the popular taste of the reading public of the State, and it will probably hit the mark. The biography bears the ever-accompanying character of historical writings, with this aim: the obscuring of unpleasant episodes, the promotion of all geese to swanship. The people of the West are particularly sensitive to criticism. The events described in this volume are very recent, and some contemporaries of Dodge, and many of their children are still living. With the exception of a few episodes, of which very little is made, the author finds that the hero and his contemporaries lived very orderly lives, such as would not shock the nerves of a hypersensitive Sunday-school teacher of Massachusetts. A life of Dodge was well worth doing. He was not a great man, nor was his career unique, but he was an excellent type of his era and environment.

In spite of the excellence of Wright's "Arabic Grammar," there have hitherto existed in English very scanty and imperfect helps for the elementary study of Arabic. When a student had got past the little reading book in Socin, he had either to use chrestomathies with vocabularies in Latin, German, or French, or to embark upon the *mare magnum* of the great Arabic lexicons. On another side, beyond the English-Arabic exercises in Socin's golden little book, there have been no aids at all in almost any language toward the writing of Arabic prose. These difficulties the Cambridge University Press (Putnam) has now fairly removed, with Thornton's "Arabic Series" in three volumes of reading books, and Weir's "Arabic Prose Composition." The series owes virtually only its inception to Thornton, and the burden of its preparation has been borne by Dr. Reynold A. Nicholson, better known as a Persian scholar. He has included a selection from the Koran, all the texts in Wright's "Arabic Reading Book"—an excellent selection, until now useless for lack of vocabulary—and more than a hundred pages of other extracts. All are well edited, with footnotes and a separate little lexicon in each volume. Of course, there is no attempt at the completeness of annotation which makes De Sacy's "Chrestomathie" still such a thesaurus; but the explanations are adequate. The Arabic prose volume is an experiment, and, it is to be feared, implies a teacher with a command of the language beyond that of most. In the hands of such a teacher it would undoubtedly do excel-

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lent service, for it is very carefully arranged and annotated. A key would add much to its usefulness.

In "Five Years in the Sudan" (Appleton) Edward Fothergill tells of his varied experiences while engaged in transporting by steamboat supplies to the stations on the banks of the rivers of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Its value lies mainly in the testimony which it bears to the remarkable success of the British rule in transforming oppressed, turbulent savages into industrious, law-abiding cultivators of the soil. He has rarely any but words of praise for the Sudanese, whom he regards as a much finer race than the Egyptian. They "are really making extraordinary strides in the direction of an effectual civilization." A notable characteristic is their fondness for their children, who, "boys and girls alike, are remarkably well behaved, as a rule, and one very seldom hears them crying." The wonderful fertility of the soil in the region bordering the Blue Nile is shown by the effects of the first rains. "One day the country will be brown and comparatively bare; the next day there will be a shimmer of green over the land; and in three or four days' time the grass will be shoulder high and almost impenetrable." On the Sobat he was impressed by the clouds of fireflies which lined its banks at night. Lovers of sport will find much of interest in his accounts of his numerous hunting expeditions. In an appendix are given the Government regulations in regard to the shooting of big game. Many of the customs of the natives are described, and some information, with severe criticism, about the work of the American missionaries will be found. The thirty-two illustrations are mostly of natives and game.

A series of ecstatic letters from Italy and France, signed "Zelphine," and describing the sightseeing adventures of a party of Philadelphians—such is Anne Hollingsworth Wharton's latest book ("In Château Land"; Lippincott). As "dear Margaret," to whom the letters are addressed, already knows the writer's travelling companions, Zelphine gives no description of them, and they remain colorless beings to the end of the book. First there is her husband, the faithful Walter, who likes fishing and Louis XII, and whose remarks are "so manlike." Then there is Miss Cassandra, a Quakeress of uncertain age, whose comments are so irresistibly funny that every one in the book "laughs heartily" at them. Finally there is the self-possessed Lydia, who chimes in with her improving historical information until it is time for her to serve as heroine. In the course of the book two other characters are introduced: M. La Tour is discovered to act as guide; and Archie is imported from America to take the party automobiling and to get engaged to Lydia. Angela and Ian, who appear at the end, have about as little to do with French châteaux as have the children who disappear into a Swiss school at the beginning. Although the book contains a great deal of useful information about the Italian Lakes and the châteaux along the Loire, it is lacking in charm, in originality. Zelphine does not get at the heart of things.

It is difficult to speak with patience of the curious medley of incoherent and inconsequent material which is found in "The Early Christians in Rome" (Lane), by the Very Rev. H. D. M. Spence-Jones, D.D., Dean of Gloucester, professor of ancient history in the Royal Academy. The title of the book awakens interest, for a careful and critical account of the life of the early Roman Christians might well claim attention; but instead there is offered us a series of superficial and repetitious disquisitions on a number of subjects, some relevant, others irrelevant, to the matter in hand. The work is divided into five books, as follows: (1) The Beginnings of Christianity in Rome, where a few banal remarks spread over a hundred pages are made about the foundation of the church by Peter and Paul, the persecutions of Nero and his successors, the character of Pliny as a letter writer, and the vogue of the epistolary form of literature; (2) The Life of a Christian in the Early Days of the Faith, not a bad account of certain features of Christian life within the empire, east as well as west; (3) The Inner Life of the Church, devoted exclusively to a second discussion of the persecutions; (4) The Roman Catacombs, and (5) The Jew and the Talmud, which has nothing to do with the early Christians in Rome or anywhere else. Studies upon such disconnected topics might be worth while if written by a scholar who had new light to shed or anything of importance to say. As it is, they are for the most part wholly without value. Saint Peter, it is stated, spent twenty-five years in Rome; Saint Paul is represented as a theologian "whose thoughts were largely taken up with the great doctrinal questions bearing on the person of the founder of Christianity," while the persecutions, in traditional fashion, are exaggerated beyond all warrant, and ascribed to a set resolution formed by the Roman Government as early as the reign of Nero to exterminate Christianity. The only excuse for the book's existence is the account of the Roman catacombs, which fills a hundred pages and is accompanied with about a dozen excellent illustrations.

Brig.-Gen. Frederick Funston's "Memories of Two Wars" (Scribner) is a racy account of the author's experiences as a volunteer in the last Cuban struggle for independence, and, later, in the war with Spain and its ensuing Filipino insurrection. Aside from its value, not inconsiderable, as a contribution to military history, the book is a really notable record of a career in which talent, "push," audacity, personal courage, and luck have mingled in unusual degree. Here one may read to his heart's content of perilous scouting, hard fighting, exhausting marches, hairbreadth escapes, fever, exposure, hunger, and all the other accompaniments and horrors of real war; for although the stage is small, the setting is vivid. If deceit is justifiable in war, then the capture of Aguinaldo, of which a full account is here given, must be set down as one of the most brilliant, as it certainly was one of the most daring achievements in our military annals. The political phases of the two wars, or their larger military aspects, are hardly referred to, but there are interesting descriptions of Gomez and Garcia, of Lacuna, the Filipino general, of Aguinaldo himself, and of some of the commanders on the American side. In spite of a somewhat assertive preface, Gen. Funston's narrative is singularly modest. He does not magnify the military importance of the operations in which he engaged, nor his own share in them, and he is generous in praise of others. His utmost claim for the book is that it is "a contribution to the literature of adventure." Not so much that is favorable can be said for the author's moral attitude, for rarely does one find such brutally frank justification of killing if the life to be taken happens to be that of an enemy. The literary style would have been lively enough without the slang which frequently decorates it. The volume is profusely illustrated with drawings by F. C. Yohn.

Dr. C. A. Mercier announces himself as the pioneer of a new science, which he calls "praxiology." His title spares us the name, but supplies the definition—"Conduct and Its Disorders Biologically Considered" (Macmillan). The scheme of the work is simple. Book i draws the preliminary psychological distinctions between reason and instinct, voluntary and involuntary, spontaneous and elicited conduct, while Book ii, covering the greater part of the work, is a detailed description of conduct, classified as self-conservative, social, and racial, and distinguished under each head as normal, excessive, or defective. The purpose is to show that normal, or moral, conduct is that which conserves proximately the individual, ulteriorly society, but ultimately the race. In a case of conflict, the survival of the species is the final test. After this account, a student of Spencer's "Data of Ethics" will wonder how Dr. Mercier can regard himself as a pioneer. Indeed, it is rather difficult to realize that one is not reading Spencer himself. There is the same idea of excess and defect, measured by the same criterion of race-survival—which is complicated by the same determined individualism; there is the same trick of illustrating a point through an ascending series of animal species—only not the same cold formalism of style; and finally, the conception of a science of conduct is precisely that which Spencer proposes and illustrates at length in his first eight chapters. Between ethics, at least the ethics of a generation past, and "praxiology" the difference is purely of name. We cannot suppose that Dr. Mercier is unaware of this; for, although, in the present work, we have been unable to find more than one reference to a living or recent writer in the field of psychology and ethics, his earlier works show a wide and abundant reading. The truth seems to be that Dr. Mercier prefers to do his thinking alone. The result is little that is absolutely new, much that is even antiquated. If, for example, he had taken issue with William James's chapter on Instinct, now twenty-four years old, he must have paused before repeating that the area of instinct is smaller in men than in the lower animals; and even a slight attention to the general literature of the subject should have disturbed his confidence in the all too easy formulation to the effect that instinct determines the ends of conduct, reason the means. Surely he cannot mean that the ends of conduct are never submitted to judgment.

For all this, Dr. Mercier's work is readable and stimulating. While not a "contribution to knowledge" in the narrower sense, it is nevertheless the expression of independent, if self-willed, thinking, and bears the mark of ripe experience united with strong

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and keen good sense. The characterizations of types of conduct are often perfect; the conception of justice (reciprocal conduct) is itself beautifully just and clear; and in a period of brain-storms it is like a gleam of sunlight to hear from an expert alienist that the instinct of retaliation, cultivated to excess until nearly a generation ago, now shows signs of defect.

We noticed recently the lectures of the French scholar, Cumont, on the introduction of various Oriental religions into Roman territory. A broader scope was taken in the Lowell Institute lectures, delivered last January by Prof. Jesse Benedict Carter of Princeton University, on "The Religious Life of Ancient Rome," now presented in book form by Houghton Mifflin Company. Beginning with the Rome of an all but prehistoric era, when the Etruscan influence was dominant, Professor Carter follows in rapid outline the evolution of Roman religious life from a crude social instinct, largely the reflex of physical interests, until it reached the highly developed individualistic and spiritual phases found not only in Christianity, but in a number of the Oriental faiths which for some generations competed so strongly with Christianity. Detail is, of course, sacrificed in a plan which reaches Constantine in the fourth lecture and closes with Gregory and the Lombards in the eighth. Just such a brief and lucid outline of the subject, however, has been sorely needed, and will be of great assistance to readers of more detailed and more narrowly delimited studies. The author has not been led by the possible perils of the situation into the assumption that Roman religion in its later phases can be satisfactorily treated apart from the rise and growth of Christianity in the same territory, and we may add that he has shown that the subject can be treated as a whole in a thoroughly scholarly and independent spirit without giving any reasonable ground of offence.

J. Scott Clark, professor of English in Northwestern University, died a week ago, following an operation for appendicitis; he was born in 1854. A number of textbooks on the English language and on literature bear his name.

Judge Elbert Eli Farman died on Saturday of last week in his eighty-first year. It was he who, while Consul-General at Cairo, procured from the Khedive the gift of "Cleopatra's Needle" to New York. He accompanied Gen. Grant on his voyage up the Nile, and wrote a book on the subject, "Along the Nile with General Grant."

Science

The Origin of Life. By H. Charlton Bastian. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. $1.50 net.

The spontaneous origin of life on the earth was long a favorite topic of discussion for those biologists philosophically inclined. It will be recalled that Pasteur and Tyndall made this a matter of thorough investigation about 1870, and their work seemed so conclusive that biologists have not greatly concerned themselves with the topic since that date. In fact, the whole subject of bacteriology and the maintenance of pure cultures, which has reached such an important development in our time, rests on the assumption that spontaneous life does not develop in any of the media used to maintain the lower forms of life.

It is therefore something of a surprise to find Dr. H. Charlton Bastian, emeritus professor of the principles and practice of medicine, University College, London, returning once more to the charge with what he regards as new evidence to show that the lower organisms develop spontaneously in suitable media in sterilized and hermetically sealed tubes. And the surprise is the greater when we learn that these newly arisen beings are such familiar forms as bacteria, yeast, and the mould penicillium. His photographs show beyond much doubt that he found these types in his preparations; the only question that modern biologists are likely to be interested in will be to know how his solutions became contaminated. The subject of sterilization is one for the specialist to deal with; the evidence that Dr. Bastian furnishes to put his findings on a safe basis is lamentably deficient. If spontaneous life occurred in such ways as he describes, the entire results of sterilization would be beyond human control. The present volume and its predecessors will not receive serious attention from those experienced in such matters, but to those who lack this training the book, well-written and finely illustrated, may appear to open an old question; especially when modern biologists take the agnostic view that we know nothing concerning the first origin of living matter.

It may be recalled that this is the same Dr. Bastian who, as a young physician in 1870, "had excited in the English and American public a bitter prejudice against the results announced by Pasteur on the subject of spontaneous generation." The manuscript of the present book, the author candidly informs us, was submitted in 1910 to the Royal Society and was rejected as "not suitable for acceptance by the Society."

In a simple, elementary manner, Rankin Kennedy, the author of "The Principles of Aeroplane Construction" (Van Nostrand), attempts to explain the physics of flying. The first three chapters deal with the fundamental laws of mechanics, defining the units of force, mass, velocity, and other quantities, and contain a general discussion of the principle of the inclined plane and of the properties of the air. The author has made the elementary mechanics in the chapters apply directly to the aeroplane, and has illustrated the principles with numerous examples. Chapter four compares two methods of making calculations relating to the power that is required to operate an aeroplane of any given size. Further investigation, however, is necessary before such calculations can be accurate. Though the author, in his own calculations, uses the correct formula for air pressure, it should be noted that on page 48 he gives a table of velocity and pressure that is inaccurate—that of Smeaton. The pressure on a flat surface perpendicular to the wind current is actually about 60 per cent. of that given by Smeaton's table, which, therefore, should not be printed without correction. A long discussion of the shape of the main supporting plane of the machine, accompanied by some good diagrams, is a special feature in the volume. It is followed by chapters on "the curves of the aeroplane" and the "aeroplane centre of gravity"; the latter involves, of course, the all-important problem of stability. The book has a number of the usual illustrations of the leading types of machines. The helicoptere and the propeller are both discussed, and some space is devoted to the successful Gnome engine. In a final chapter there are some sensible views on the future of the aeroplane.

Dr. Arthur Vincent Meigs, formerly president of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia, died on Sunday, at the age of sixty-one. Among his writings are "Milk Analysis and Infant Feeding," "The Origin of Disease," and "A Study of the Human Blood-Vessels in Health and Disease."

Drama

Sherwood. By Alfred Noyes. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Co. $1.75 net.

There is much delightful reading in this five-act romance of Alfred Noyes, which embodies nearly all the familiar legends associated with the name of Robin Hood, together with others of which few persons, probably, have ever heard before. Written in fluent and musical blank verse, it is full of charming fancy, and is charged throughout with the free spirit of the woodland. Here and there—as in the song of the fairies with which it begins and ends—it breaks into flights of fine poetic inspiration. For Oberon and Titania and their elfin court, though unperceived by the grosser mortal characters, play their part in the loves and adventures of these Sherwood foresters, and bespeak for them the immortality which they long ago won in fairyland. They reveal themselves only to the faithful Fool, Shadow of a Leaf, who for love ventures all and loses all, except the dim hope of reward in some dreamland of the future.

Pure romance as the play is, it is not devoid of serious purpose, for it is founded upon a democratic creed of the broadest sort and waxes eloquent in its assaults upon the old feudalism and modern abuses. Robin Hood figures as a philanthropist of the most advanced type. As Earl of Huntington, he has impoverished himself to relieve the victims of the savage forest laws, and he robs the rich only to give the proceeds to the poor. His bride, Maid Marian, joins him in disguise, after the fashion of Rosalind, when her time-serving old father,

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the Baron Fitzwalter, would betray her into the arms of the baleful Prince John, regent in the absence of Richard the Lion Heart. Queen Ellinor is against her, too, being in love herself with Robin, who was her page in the days of her early pursuit of the Fair Rosamund. Mr. Noyes, with a poet's license, makes light of certain chronological difficulties. Richard himself appears upon the scene, after Robin and his men—none of the nursery book favorites are forgotten—have outlawed themselves beyond recall by their defeats of John and his minions, and it is he who confers honors and fresh riches upon Earl Robin and his lady. But the cruel and guileful Ellinor triumphs at the last, and, when there is no longer any Richard to interfere, becomes the double murderess of the devoted pair. It is then that Oberon decrees their immortality in fairyland.

It is a pity that Mr. Noyes elected to kill his lovers, although this is made the occasion of so fine a burst of jubilant poetry as his ode "The Forest Has Conquered" and the pretty fairy epilogue with its closing optimistic note. Fairy tales ought not to end in tragedy. But this catastrophe could easily be avoided, if the piece ever reached the footlights. And with a little alteration—which probably would involve the excision of all the fairy episodes—the piece ought to prove most effective as spectacular romance. Its rare literary quality would commend it to discerning theatre-goers, while the abundance of incident and the familiarity of most of the characters ought to be attractive to the multitude. In any case, it will furnish a pleasant hour to all intelligent readers.

The first piece presented by W. A. Brady's Playhouse Company, in Maxine Elliott's Theatre, was the "Just to Get Married" of Cicely Hamilton, author of "Diana of Dobson's," well known as a writer of smart, but somewhat flippant and obvious, satire on social topics. Her present theme is the necessity of marriage as a means of livelihood to the ordinary helpless woman, and the shameless shifts to which she is often driven in the pursuit of a husband. Her heroine is an orphan niece, adopted into the family of a rich uncle, and reared luxuriously, but uselessly. At twenty-nine she is weary of dependence, and is praying that Adam Lankester, a rich but exceedingly shy young bachelor, may propose to her, that she may enjoy some sense of freedom. She does not care for him a snap, rather despises him, but spreads her toils for him, while the family speculate upon her chances, and finally ensnares him. Then she discovers that he is a paragon of manhood, that his shyness arose simply from dread of failure, that he is ardent, tender, generous, and supremely trustful. As she begins to fathom the depth and purity of his affection, she is agonized by conscience, dares not complete her deceitful bargain, and at last confesses the truth and bids him go. The whole value of the play as drama is centred in this scene, which is comparatively fresh, and is exceedingly well written—with simplicity, insight, and naturalness—and uncommonly well acted, by Lyn Harding, as the man, and Grace George, as the woman. Mr. Harding promises to be an acquisition to the American stage. He acts with notable ease and self-control, exhibits both vigor and delicacy in his execution, can be humorous without exaggeration, and can signify strong internal emotion in a manner rarely simple and life-like. Miss Grace George also acted at this juncture with spirit and sincerity. Of the remainder of the play, which is rounded off with the conventional happy ending, little need be said. The professed purpose is forgotten, probability is defied, and the moral vanishes in fog. It should be added that some of the members of the new stock company sorely need instruction in the arts of correct speech and agreeable manners.

It is announced that Winthrop Ames has made arrangements to bring Professor Reinhardt's production of "Sumurûn" to the Casino, on January 16, with the original company from the Deutsches Theater, Berlin. This piece, which was described long ago in this journal, ran for two seasons in London and was enthusiastically lauded by some of the most prominent critics as being in the highest degree artistic and virtually a new form of dramatic expression. Setting raptures aside, it seems to have been a highly superior example of pantomime. It is a wordless play, unfolding a story of exceedingly lurid Oriental melodrama, which is accompanied by special music, composed by Victor Hollaender, who is now at work in this city drilling a full orchestra.

These independent theatres have queer notions of art and entertainment. The London Stage Society has just been regaling itself with a stage version of George Moore's "Esther Waters." The London *Times* says: "It is all very real. You feel sure that it all happened somewhere, exactly like that. But you also feel—and that is the worst realism—that you don't greatly care whether it did or not."

In the performance of "Bella Donna," the play which J. B. Fagan has made out of Robert Hichens's book, Sir George Alexander plays the part of the cool, tactful, alert, firm opponent of browbeating and bluster; Mrs. Patrick Campbell is the woman at bay, required to show composure in trying moments.

A play which has attracted a great deal of attention in Paris is "Les Sauterelles," by Emile Fabre, which is a scathing attack upon French colonial maladministration. The scene is manifestly intended for Indo-China. A Paris correspondent of a London journal writes: "A great variety of types of French officials from the Governor-General downwards and their chattering wives pass under review, and they are mostly self-seeking, or at best purblind. The Orientals are numerous and picturesque." The main plot revolves around a projected loan, which is to be expended upon political "graft" of different kinds. When the native ruler refuses to acquiesce, he is promptly dethroned, whereupon there is a revolution, in which the dishonest officials and their wives exhibit dauntless bravery. Then the annexation of the colony is announced and the election of a native representative assembly ordered by "universal suffrage." There is one scene, in a native council, of which the correspondent before quoted says:

Two of the old native councillors comment, very much in the manner of Usbek and Rica in Montesquieu's "Lettres persanes," upon the follies and vulgarities of European civilization, and, above all, upon that crowning folly which mistakes telegraphs, telephones, motor cars, and aeroplanes for evidences of the essential superiority of the West over the East. One councillor has been in France, and his story of what he heard and saw is infinitely droll, and is at the same time a piece of most biting and infinitely delicate satire. His conclusion is that the French are "barbarians."

News has reached London of the death of Otojiro Kawakami, father of the new school of Japanese dramatic art. Mr. Kawakami and his wife, Mme. Sada Yacco, visited England about twelve years ago, and with some pupils of the modern school who were travelling with them gave a series of Japanese performances at the Coronet Theatre. At that date, neither of them was very famous at home. Kawakami was known as an actor who wished to reform the native theatre, and Sada Yacco's fame was simply that of a popular singing-girl. London awakened to their abilities only a few days before their brief season closed, and Paris acclaimed them as theatrical stars of the first magnitude. On their return to Japan, they at once leaped into popular favor. Some of Mr. and Mrs. Kawakami's experiments, despite their great courage, bade fair to turn this newfound popularity into ridicule, but they persevered doggedly in their uphill task. Their enthusiasm had its reward in due course. Thinking people began to look upon the drama as one of the arts, and grudgingly to recognize actors not merely as artists, but as respectable members of society. The late Prince Ito did much to raise the drama from the despised position it had hitherto occupied, and the present Premier, Marquess Saionji, helped to raise the status of the actor by receiving him at his own home—an unheard-of condescension in an official and a person of the *shizoku* class.

Music

The new (fourth) edition of Henry L. Mason's "Opera Stories" includes productions of the present season in New York, Boston, and Chicago, among them, "Lobetanz," "Cendrillon," "Mona," "Siberia," "La Forêt bleue." Besides the 163 operas now included in the useful little book, there are five ballets and the mystery play, "The Martyrdom of St. Sebastian."

"A List of Books on the Operas Announced for Production at the Boston Opera House During the Season of MCMXI-MCMXII in the Public Library of the City of Boston" is the elaborate title of a forty-nine-page brochure published by the trustees of that library. The list covers thirty operas: "Aïda," "Il Barbiere di Siviglia," "La Bohême," "Carmen," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "L'Enfant prodigue," "Faust," "La Forêt bleue," "Germania," "La Habanera," "Hänsel und Gretel," "Lucia," "Madama Butterfly," "Manon" (Masscnet), "Manon Lescaut" (Puccini), "Mefistofele," "Otello," "I Pagliacci," "Pelléas et Mélisande," "Rigoletto," "The Sacrifice,"

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"Samson et Dallia," "Il Segreto di Susanna," "Thaïs," "Tosca," "La Traviata," "Il Trovatore," "Werther." In this list there are only two German operas, Boston having no German division like the New York Metropolitan, whose Wagner every season has more performances than any Italian or French composer. The list has been prepared with Bostonian thoroughness. After naming five dictionaries of operas, the compiler mentions twenty-six books of history and criticism, followed by twenty books of "Stories of the Operas." Then the operas themselves are presented in alphabetical order, the different scores and librettos being named, as well as publications specially concerned with this or that score. Concerning "Carmen," there are no fewer than nine of these, and "Tristan and Isolde" has eight, among them Weyl's humorous "Herr Richard Wogner, der musikal'sche Struwelpeter, saane naiste oper: Crischan Isosolldich." The list was prepared by Miss Barbara Duncan, who is in charge of the Allen A. Brown collection, to which reference has been made repeatedly in these columns. The monumental catalogue of this collection has now got as far as part iii of Vol. II, including all books, scores, and other musical publications, from "Musicians" to "Panormo." No fewer than ninety-one columns are needed to catalogue everything that comes under the head of operas, while barely ten are needed for oratorios. Offenbach, now obsolete except for one opera, is entombed in five columns.

At the concerts of the New York Philharmonic Society in Carnegie Hall this evening and Friday afternoon, Josef Lhevinne, the Russian pianist, will make his first New York appearance this season. He will play, under Josef Stransky, the Rubinstein Concerto No. 5, in E flat, op. 94, his performance of which a few years ago in Berlin won him the coveted Rubinstein prize, and brought him into wide prominence. He got his chief training under Safanoff at the Royal Conservatory of Moscow, his native city. While a student there, and fourteen, he was invited by Rubinstein to play the Beethoven Emperor Concerto at a concert of the Moscow Symphony, a work which he will perform at the Philharmonic concert of Sunday afternoon, January 7.

Art

The Life and Works of Winslow Homer. By William Howe Downes. With illustrations. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. $6 net.

This handsomely printed and fully illustrated quarto brings together whatever needs to be known of the life of Winslow Homer. Mr. Downes, who is well known as art critic of the Boston *Transcript*, knew Winslow Homer for many years, has diligently collected the scanty literature of the subject, and has listed all pictures which have been publicly exhibited. So this first biography of the greatest of modern painters of the sea is not merely official, but in an unusual degree definitive. Mr. Downes's attitude toward his hero is well expressed in the following words:

From my boyhood I have loved the pictures, the least of them—a drawing of a little boat, a slight affair, perhaps a sailboat with a group of boys and girls aboard, but so full of a good, sound, expressive naturalism that one said: "What a jolly thing it is to sail a boat!"—and from that day to the time of The Look-out—All's Well, with its inscrutable, mystic suggestion of all the wonders of the life of the seaman, and its still more mysterious hint of the wonders of life itself, the solitary figure of Winslow Homer has loomed up in my imagination with a strange persistency and a singular, commanding impressiveness. In him, more than in any other American painter, dwelt that racy, native, pungent, Yankee note which seemed to me beyond all price. The things that he painted interested me; the way that he painted them suited me; the way that things looked to him was the way that they looked to me; I felt that I understood him; and I rashly resolved that I would write a book about him.

Here we have avowed the frank hero-worship that inspires the book, and a sufficient hint of the sturdiness of the style. Mr. Downes effaces himself throughout. He gives facts rather than opinions, though he freely quotes the opinion of others, and the figure of his hero disengages itself with a massive and convincing objectivity. All this is excellent good art, and the present writer can quarrel with Mr. Downes only for using his scrap-books too conscientiously. A certain amount of repeated description of pictures might be pruned out to the advantage of the book. If the survey were to be contained within the horizon of Prout's Neck, Maine, a better biography, given the material, could hardly have been composed. Mr. Downes has been admirably consistent in abiding by his self-imposed limitation. We have not detected a single allusion to any work by any other artist than the hero. That whole field of comparison and analogy, which is the very basis of criticism, lay open to the author, and he resolutely declined to set foot therein. Winslow Homer painted as if his were the only painting in the world, and his biographer piously accepts that point of view.

But a painter is, though, like Winslow Homer, he flees the world, in the world after all; and the admiration for any artist's work fuses in men's hearts with kindred admirations. Sooner or later, pure biography must merge into criticism, into the consideration of the work in all its relations. Winslow Homer's art, though possibly he would have denied it strenuously, belongs to the art of the world, and some time or other he will have to be considered in cosmopolitan aspects most uncongenial to him.

Possibly, the instinctive dislike of the artist for the critic is due to a sense that the critic is going to transfer him ruthlessly from favorite club or chosen sketching-ground to the white light of the museum, is going to set up a lot of injurious comparisons. Even more, the feud between painter and that other sort of artist called critic is the painter's just apprehension that in the long run criticism is not so much of work as of personal temperament. The future will ask about Winslow Homer, beyond his leading passion for the keenness of forest guides and the courage of seafaring men, what were his other admirations? What was his attitude or interest in the work of older painters or of his contemporaries? What did he read? What manner of men and women did he draw to himself? The silence of this biography on such points is already a criticism. The concentration and narrowing of the man's aims can hardly be paralleled among artists of his rank. He elected the narrowest outlook, and more or less justified it by the intensity of vision he thus attained. In a far truer sense than the *luministes* he was an impressionist, prizing beyond all else the first keen edge of vision and declining to temper it by much infusion of reflection or comparison. Oddly enough, this racy, solitary figure came near to meeting the current ideal of the mere artist, and, paradoxically, men never failed to understand him. There is no story of inner disharmony to be told of him, nor tragedy of praise deferred. Until middle life he kept himself well by a kind of illustration that was popular, well-paid, and very congenial to him.

Academic honors were promptly and profusely bestowed upon him. Buyers always wanted his pictures. His own etched copies of some of his most moving compositions were widely distributed. He is the only great artist America has produced who has achieved real popularity. Judged on any American scale, his greatness and importance can hardly be exaggerated. Judged on a universal scale, it may be that he will be associated not with the great central figures, but with such uncompromising and wholesome individualists as Manet and Courbet. Turner at his rare best, Ruysdael as sea-painter, Millet, seem to have more of the stuff of immortality in them.

But we have no desire to anticipate a criticism that may reasonably wait a generation or so, and we are grateful to Mr. Downes for writing just the sort of book he has chosen to write. It is the production of a hero-worshipper who is also a fine critic. It is what the moment calls for, and what only this particular writer and time could offer. For the critics of the future it will afford a sound basis.

We may fittingly close with Winslow Homer's *credo* as conveyed in Mr. Downes's introductory note. Homer stood firm on the realistic theory that true art lies in copying a selected bit of nature as nearly as may be. As a matter of fact, the reader hardly

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needs to be reminded, he made the usual compositional adjustment between the sketch and the canvas, and he carried an artful and forceful simplification to a point which the post-impressionists prate about without achieving. He is one more example of the paradox that the artist, while perforce an improver of nature, must believe that he is her humble amanuensis. Despite Leonardo da Vinci, pretty much all the great art of the world has been, and apparently must be, based on false theory. But back to Prout's Neck and the Homeric realities:

> There comes to my mind an incident [writes Mr. Downes] which will illustrate his unyielding attitude towards absolute truth. On the occasion of one of my visits to his home, we were picking our way along the coast over the shelving rocks he painted so often and with such insight and power, when I suddenly said:
>
> "Mr. Homer, do you ever take any liberty, in painting nature, of modifying the color of any part?"
>
> The inquiry seemed to startle him. Arresting his steps for an instant, he firmly clenched his hand, and, bringing it down with a quick action, exclaimed:
>
> "Never! Never! When I have selected the thing carefully, I paint it exactly as it appears." . . . "Never!" he reiterated, as we moved on in the direction of the sea.

The incident may possibly explain why the quintessence of what Winslow Homer seems to be in his incomparably just and vivid water-color sketches rather than in the greater works. His art seems to be related to the art that is admittedly central and great, somewhat as the Icelandic sagas are to the greatest literature. It should be no offence to the Viking spirit to add that its magnificent, barbaric note inevitably yields in human importance to the more fully modulated expressions of completer civilizations.

A new volume is added this month to Scribners' Library of Art series—"The Painters of the School of Ferrara," by Edmund G. Gardner.

The chief work of the Egypt Exploration Fund during the coming season will be the continued excavation of the Osireion at Abydos, a great subterranean building connected with the Temple of Seti. The junction of the Osireion with the Seti temple remains to be discovered, and this is a most interesting task. It may clear up many obscure mythological references besides making considerable addition to our knowledge of Egyptian architecture. If new inscriptions are found, these may, like those already uncovered, add to our knowledge of funerary ritual. The work will be carried out by Prof. E. Naville, LL.D., fellow of King's College, London, and member of the Institute of France, the discoverer of the Biblical Pithom and of the Route of the Exodus, and excavator of the Temple of Queen Hatshepsu at Deir el-Bahari; assisted by T. E. Peet, Prof. Thomas Whittemore of Tufts College, J. Droop, and the Hon. Robert Trefusis, who has previously worked at Abydos. Checks should be made payable to the Egypt Exploration Fund and sent to Mrs. Marie N. Buckman, secretary for the United States, No. 527 Tremont Temple, Boston, Mass. Illustrated circular will be sent upon request.

Finance

RETROSPECT.

Every year has a character of its own, but it is not always possible to determine its real place in financial history until some time after it is over. Few people got a clear comprehension of 1909, for instance, before the first half of 1910 had disclosed the real nature and meaning of the boom which was still in an uncertain condition at the end of December. Such a year as 1899 was not really understood until 1901—perhaps not until some years later.

In some important respects, 1911 will have to be described as a year of disappointed hopes. There was certainly a very prevalent feeling, early in the year, that the long-deferred financial and industrial recovery was at hand. We had had our false start, our premature boom, in 1909. It had ended with that year, and the country had spent nearly all of 1910 in thoroughgoing and drastic liquidation. Prices had been brought down, for commodities as for stocks; speculation curbed; unwarranted extension of credit curtailed; bank resources restored.

At the beginning of 1911, therefore, there were not wanting experienced judges to predict that we were in shape for a progressive forward movement in finance and industry. As a rule, these prophecies were conditioned on the harvesting of satisfactory crops, and it is true that, through a good part of 1911, it looked as if the harvests would be a serious disappointment. But we now know that this impression was erroneous. Our wheat and corn crops have been smaller than in 1909; but two or three years ago, both would have been greeted as extremely gratifying yields, and our 15,000,000-bale cotton crop is a noteworthy agricultural windfall.

Nevertheless, the favorable predictions of January and May have not at all been fulfilled. People who backed those predictions on the market, with their money, have suffered heavy losses. Even after the markets had taken on hope, as a consequence of the Supreme Court's conservative interpretation of the Anti-Trust law in the spring, they began to falter in mid-summer, and with the end of the summer season swept into a violent and demoralizing decline which, in the later autumn, plunged the entire community into a gulf of the blackest financial pessimism. What was the real trouble?

The answer which will be made in many quarters is that the whole trouble lay in the Government's unexpected Anti-Trust law prosecutions. It is difficult to accept this explanation as sufficient, however; because the Government's policy and purposes were perfectly well known a year ago. The reassuring influence of the Supreme Court opinions, with their positive rejection of the theory that all corporations and all partnerships restrained trade illegally and were subject to prosecution, had just as much legitimate scope in September as in May. Nothing happened in this regard, in the second half of 1911, which might not have been predicted in the first half—except perhaps for the fact that it had become tradition that the Steel Corporation was immune from prosecution. Yet even as regards the Steel Trust, we have seen what was the result when the trust was actually sued.

One must therefore ask whether any other influences were at work, of large enough scope to block the predicted recovery. There have been such influences. The prolonged uncertainty over the grain harvest, even if ultimately removed, had its effect on sentiment. We know to-day, moreover—what was not seriously imagined in this country at the time—that in the later weeks of summer Europe, if not actually on the verge of the most formidable war in forty years, was at any rate in a situation where the act or word of a single imprudent statesman might have made such a war inevitable. Secret knowledge or uneasy apprehension of that situation may have been the real cause of the autumn decline.

But behind this stood another singularly interesting fact. At no time—even when Wall Street's hopes of financial and industrial revival were at their highest pitch—was there any sign that the outside public, the genuine consumer, believed that prices of merchandise or securities were so low as to provide an inviting basis for a general purchasing movement. That may have been because of belief that existing prices were too high on general principles, or it may have been because investors and consumers were feeling poor, and did not reckon themselves able to buy on the old-time scale. As to which is the proper explanation, opinions differ. But of the general fact there is no difference of opinion.

When a merchant cannot sell his goods, and is holding them on the basis of borrowed money, he will sooner or later cut his prices to get customers, and that is exactly what happened, on the Stock Exchange as in general trade, when the outside public would not buy last summer. Naturally, now that the price-cutting process has halted, and buyers from somewhere or other have arrived in such numbers as to change the aspect of affairs, it will be asked, just what was the real economic signifi-

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cance of the episode? Perhaps we shall have to wait awhile to see.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Allingham. Letters to William Allingham. Edited by H. Allingham and E. B. Williams. Longmans.

Baron de Blay de Gaïx. Lettres du Baron de Castelnau, officier (1728-1793). Paris: H. Champion. 3.50 francs.

Bonin, C. E. Les Royaumes des Neiges (états Himalayens). Paris: A. Colin. 4 francs.

Bouglé, C. La Sociologie de Proudhon. Paris: A Colin. 3.50 francs.

Bovet, Ernest. Lyrisme, Epopée, Drame. Paris: A. Colin. 3.50 francs.

Brown, R. Man's Birthright. Desmond FitzGerald. $1.50 net.

Bryan, E. B. Fundamental Facts for the Teacher. Silver, Burdette. $1.

Catalogue of an Exhibition of Old Masters in aid of the National Art Collections Fund: Grafton Galleries, 1911. London: Philip Lee Warner.

Childers, E. The Framework of Home Rule. Longmans.

Comte de Montessus de Ballore. La Sismologie moderne (les tremblements de terre). Paris: A. Colin. 4 francs.

Corbett, J. S. Some Principles of Maritime Strategy. Longmans.

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